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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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RUSSELL ERRETT, EDITOR.

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HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, Pa., January 27, 1873.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 11 A. M., the Lieutenant Governor in the chair.

A large number of petitions were presented, among them one from fifteen hundred citizens of Pittsburgh, presented by Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny, asking the Legislature to instruct our United States Senators and advise our members of Congress to favor measures giving Government aid to the Texas Pacific Railroad. Similar petitions were presented from citizens of Lycoming, Montour, Somerset and Bedford counties.

Mr. Strang, from the Committee on Finance, reported favorably House bill No. 14, supplementary to the act relating to the State Treasurer and the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, amending the same by striking out the word "six" where it affects the monthly balances to be invested in bonds of the United States.

Mr. Strang stated that the bill was of the utmost importance, and moved that it be read the first time, which was agreed to.

Bills Introduced—Act releasing notaries public appointed subsequent to the 19th of February, 1873, from commission fees, if reappointed.

Act to alter certain rules of law in the construction of deeds and wills and simplifying conveyances.

Supplementary to the act relating to Orphans' Courts.

Act relative to live stock, prohibiting strays.

Act regulating the management of county jails, penitentiaries and houses of refuge and correction of this State. This act provides for the separation of colored and white persons, and that colored persons shall be under the care of persons of their own color.

On motion of Mr. Albright, Senate bill No. 9, An act relative to summoning defendants to testify in criminal cases," was made the special order for Tuesday afternoon, at three o'clock.

Bills on Third Reading—Supplement to an act entitled "An act to relieve laborers, workingmen and journeymen from certain prosecutions and indictments for conspiracy," &c., which was virtually restoring the original provisions of the bill.

Act relating to judicial sales and the preservation of liens of mortgages. Amended, on motion of Mr. Jones.

Act to provide for the erection of watering troughs for the use of horses and cattle on public roads. Amended so as to apply to counties having less than 45,000 inhabitants.

Bills on Second Reading—Joint resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution. Agreed to, as amended, on motion of Mr. Strang.

Act relating to appeals in cases of summary conviction. Agreed to.

Act relating to bail in criminal cases taken by mayors, deputy mayors, aldermen and justices of peace, requiring them to record in the information docket the names of persons taken as bail and the location and extent of their property. Agreed to.

Act relating to the transfer of loans of cities and counties. Agreed to.

Act authorizing appeals from assessments in the Commonwealth to the Court of Common Pleas. Agreed to.

Senator Wood read an humorous address on the resolution introduced by him a few days ago, relative to Ground Hog Day. The resolution was postponed for the present, on motion of Mr. Albright, and the oration be extended to ex-Senator Maclay to reply.

The Governor sent the following nominations to the Senate, but they were not confirmed:

Notaries Public—Andrew Humbert, Pittsburgh; M. N. Miles, Perrolia, Butler county; Jas. Hammond, Edenburg, Clarion county.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at 11 A. M.

The Speaker laid before the House the petition of 1,500 citizens of Allegheny, asking the Legislature to request our Representatives, and instruct our Senators, in Congress to vote for the bill giving aid to the Texas Pacific Railroad. Referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

Bills on Second Reading—Act relating to the powers and duties of the burgesses of boroughs. Negatived.

Supplementary act providing for the appointment of special detective officers in any county of the Commonwealth. This act gives additional powers to those granted special detectives by the act of 1874. Passed.

Mr. Christy moved to reconsider the bill, defeated on third reading, giving arbitrators two dollars per day. Agreed to, and the bill was placed on the calendar.

Supplementary to the act of 1874, dividing cities into three classes, which has for its object the increase of the number of clauses. Laid over finally and ordered to be printed. The above is Mr. Long's bill, which divides cities of the State into five classes. It has been unanimously reported affirmatively by the General Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Piper read in place a bill to provide for a proper educational display at the Centennial.

On motion of Mr. Yerkes, the vote on the bill giving Purdon's Digest to members, was reconsidered and the bill again placed on the calendar.

Supplementary act prescribing the manner in which counties may divide boroughs into wards. Recommitted.

An act empowering Camp meetings to employ a police force. Agreed to.

Act to provide for the payment of costs in certain cases. Agreed to.

Adjourned.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial

HARRISBURG, PA., January 28, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 10 A. M., and was called to order by the Lieutenant Governor.

Mr. Strang moved to proceed to the consideration of the State Treasury bill on second reading, which was agreed to.

Mr. Albright moved to amend the second section to the effect of prohibiting the State Treasurer from receiving any premium, bonds or other consideration for State deposits.

Mr. Strang characterized the entire section as a piece of idle declamation; but, to expedite the passage of the bill, the Senate Finance Committee had retained it. The amendments were a reflection on the honesty of the persons who might be elected State Treasurer.

Messrs. Albright and Yerkes advocated the incorporation of the amendments as whole some.

The yeas and nays were called on the amendments, and were as follows: Yeas 21, nays 18. The section, as amended, was then defeated—yeas 19, nays 20. The bill is now in the condition it was when introduced in the House without the amendments subsequently added.

Reports from Committees—Regulating proceedings for the violation of ordinances of cities of the first class. With amendments.

To authorize cities of the second class to increase their indebtedness. As committed.

To provide for the submission to the voters of the Commonwealth of a proposition for the removal of the State Capital to Philadelphia.

To suppress vagrancy. With amendments.

Relating to Orphans' Courts. As committed.

Relative to salaries of county officers and for the payment of the fees received by them to the State—to the several counties, in counties containing over 150,000 inhabitants. With amendments.

Regulating the management of county jails, penitentiaries and houses of refuge and correction. Negatived.

Supplementary act relating to township rates and levies. Negatived.

Relative to notaries public. Negatived.

To further define the duties of the Auditor General. Negatived.

Bills Introduced.—Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny—Providing for the establishment of industrial schools in the State; supplementary act authorizing changes of venue in civil cases; also one to authorize the appointment of stenographers in the several courts of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Wood—Supplementary act relating to mechanics' liens.

The act relating to judicial sales for the preservation of liens of mortgages, was not agreed to on final passage.

Bills on Third Reading—Authorizing appeals in assessments in the Commonwealth to the Court of Common Pleas. Agreed to.

Bills on Second Reading—Relating to registration of births and marriages in cities. Agreed to.

Relating to the appointment of auditors by courts of the Commonwealth. Not agreed to.

Adjourned until Monday next at 8 P. M.

HOUSE.

The House met at 10 A. M. A large number of petitions were presented and properly referred. A resolution for printing 5,000 copies of the pamphlet laws of 1875, for the use of the Legislature, was referred.

A number of reports of committees were received, including one from the General Judiciary, entitled "An act relating to judgments and stay executions," with an affirmative recommendation.

Bills in Place—By Mr. Long, of Allegheny—Changing the method of gauging refined oil, from measurement by rod to weight; also bill reducing the fee of Oil Inspector from seven to five cents per barrel; also bill relating to partnership associations, extending its provisions to firms engaged in loaning money.

Mr. Carson—To authorize the appointment of police justices and defining their duties; also, one for the regulation of passenger railroad companies.

Mr. Plummer—To establish new counties in the Commonwealth; also bill to establish a school for deaf mutes in certain cases.

Mr. Hays—Supplementary act to carry out the provisions of section 12, article 3, of the Constitution; also, act repealing the act to regulate the election of school directors in sub-districts of Pittsburgh; also, supplementary act to provide for the construction and maintenance of foot walks in Chartiers, Scott, Robinson and Union townships, Allegheny county; also an act, reported affirmatively from the Local Judiciary, prescribing the manner in which Councils may pass ordinances for grading and paving any avenue, street or alley, or the construction of any sewer or bridge. The above bill puts a most immediate check on improving streets where the property will not pay the assessments. Also, from the same committee, an act allowing the session of the Fifth and Sixth and Thirty-fifth wards from the City of Pittsburgh; also act in regard to landlords and tenants, negatived.

Mr. Rogers, of Allegheny, from the Committee on Education, affirmatively with amendments—Act requiring the teaching of drawing in all the common schools of the State; act for the better profession of teachers; act preventing aldermen and justices of the peace from acting as attorneys; act to provide for a Centennial encampment for Grangers; act repealing the local option law in Fayette City, Fayette county; act to regulate boroughs; act to define and suppress vagrancy; act to regulate the fees of notaries public; act relative to taxes for benevolent purposes; act authorizing the Superintendent of Public Instruction to publish, revised and abridged, "Pennsylvania School Architecture;" act relative to the exemption of property from levy and sale.

Mr. Billingsley, of Washington, has been substituted for Mr. Vogtle on the committee to investigate the School of Reform at Morganza. The committee leave here Sunday night, and will commence the investigation Monday morning next, at the House of Refuge in Manchester.

A large number of bills were read the first time. This consists in simply reading the same without any action on the part of the House.

Adjourned until 7:30 o'clock next Monday evening.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial

HARRISBURG, PA., January 31, 1873.

SENATE.

Bills on First Reading—Act to define and suppress vagrancy.

Act to authorize and empower county commissioners to contract for and purchase the use or control of bridges erected over rivers, creeks and rivulets, and for the abolition of tolls thereon.

Act to enable citizens of the United States to hold and convey titles which had been held by alien corporations not authorized by law to hold the same.

Supplementary act dividing the cities of the State into three classes and for other purposes.

Act relative to idle and disorderly persons in cities of the second class.

Act for the prevention of horses, cattle, sheep or swine running at large in the various townships, when a majority of voters thereof shall so decide.

Act regulating the sale of baled hay, &c.

Act to repeal section 4 of the act to incorporate the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society.

Supplementary act designating for the several classes of contested elections in the Commonwealth, and providing for the trial thereof.

Act declaratory of the true intent of section 4 of the act to consolidate, revise and amend the penal laws.

Act conferring jurisdiction on Courts of Common Pleas in cases of mandamus against boards of directors.

Act enabling assignees for the benefit of creditors to make sale of real estate encumbered by liens.

Act to punish attorney fees in judgments under one hundred dollars, entered on warrants of attorney.

Act amendatory of the law of libel.

Act relating to costs in criminal cases.

Act limiting the time of filing judgments on warrants of attorney, amicable actions or agreements to confess or revive judgments.

Supplementary act relative to burial grounds and cemeteries situated in incorporated boroughs.

Act relative to persons writing threatening letters.

Act relating to the payment of licenses for hotels, inns, taverns, eating-houses and restaurants.

Act relating to mechanics' claims, authorizing amendment of the same.

Act for the incorporation and regulation of banks of discount and deposit.

Act to carry into effect section five, article fourteenth of the Constitution relative to salaries of county officers, and for the payment of fees received by them into the State or county treasury, in counties containing over 150,000 inhabitants.

Supplementary act relating to Orphans' Courts.

Act authorizing the increase of the indebtedness of any city of the second class in the Commonwealth.

Act to provide for the submission to the voters of the Commonwealth of a proposition for the removal of the Capitol of the State to the city of Philadelphia.

The rules were, by unanimous consent, suspended to allow the reading of the following bills:

Act authorizing councils of cities of the Commonwealth of the third class, to fill vacancies in the offices of city controller and treasurer. Read a second time and passed.

Supplementary act relating to the State Treasury and the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, approved May 9, 1874, amending by assigning part of the revenue derived from tax on the capital stock of all corporations of the Commonwealth to the Sinking Fund, and part thereof to the General Revenue Fund. The bill was on its third reading, or final passage, and the vote stood: Yeas 19, nays 18. As it lacked the constitutional majority, 26, it failed to pass to-night. This leaves the bill in a bad shape. Unless the Democratic members of the Senate change their position, which it is quite likely they will do, neither the members nor any State institutions will receive any money.

HOUSE.

The House met at 7:30 P. M. Letters, petitions, memorials and remonstrances were presented and properly referred. The following petitions were presented:

Mr. Long—Remonstrance of merchants of Pittsburgh against a change in the method of gauging oil.

Petition of citizens of Kittanning against the repeal of their act of incorporation.

Also of citizens of Altoona remonstrating against establishing the office of Recorder in the various counties of the State.

Numerous petitions were presented from several counties of the State requesting our Senators and members of Congress to vote for the bill before Congress granting aid to the Texas Pacific Railroad.

Also, petition of citizens of Blairsville remonstrating against the repeal of the prohibitory liquor law; also as regards Burrell township.

Also of citizens of Westmoreland county asking the repeal of the Local Option law in Derry township and Mount Pleasant.

Also of citizens of Philadelphia asking the reduction of car fare on city passenger railways.

Also of citizens of Washington county asking the passage of a law for the protection of boarding-house keepers.

Mr. Spang—Petition of citizens of Bedford asking the increase of the exemption under the law of 1849 to one thousand dollars, and to exempt from levy and execution all tools of workingmen, and further provide for the payment of debts.

Petition of citizens of Greene county for a modification of the charter of the Dollar Savings Bank of Waynesburg. Also to confine the fees of justices of the peace solely to fees, and inflict a severe penalty for its violation.

Bills Read in Place.—Mr. Graham (of Allegheny)—Act making appropriation to the Western Penitentiary.

Act referring to the collection of school tax.

Act relating to game and fish.

Mr. Toner—Act to repeal the local option laws of Derry township and the borough of Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland county.

The following bills were reported affirmatively from committees:

Act repealing the act relating to roads in Morris and Independence townships, Washington county, so far as relates to Hopewell township.

Act to authorize the separation of townships and boroughs from one county and their annexation to adjoining counties.

Act from Select Committee, with affirmative recommendations, to suppress vagrancy.

Mr. Irwin, of Allegheny, called up his concurrent resolution asking our Senators and Members of Congress to vote for the repeal of the Bankrupt law, and that the Governor transmit a copy of the same to Senators and Members.

Several bills passed first reading, which simply consists in reading the same without any action thereon. The only one on the calendar of general interest to citizens of Pittsburgh, is act to repeal an act supplementary to several acts incorporating the city of Pittsburgh, enlarging its boundaries, approved the 2nd day of April, 1872, as to the boroughs of Mt. Washington and Union. The above act is for the secession of the Thirty-second and Thirty-third Wards, on the South Side, from the city of Pittsburgh.

Adjourned.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 26, 1876.

The session of the Senate, to-day, was occupied, mainly, in a discussion of a supplement to Wallace's bill of 1872 to punish conspiracies for overawing laborers.

The discussion brought out a string of facts on the labor question and the legislation brought about by it which proved exceedingly interesting, and will justify being repeated here at some length.

Prior to the act of 1872, the only law for prosecuting those who combined, through trades' unions or otherwise, to overawe laborers and prevent them from working, when disposed to do so, was an indictment at common law for conspiracy.

This remedy being slow and, in the opinion of many employers in the coal regions, ineffective, Mr. Wallace brought in and had passed the act of 1872. The act was entitled "An act to *relieve* laborers, workingmen and journeyman from certain prosecutions and indictments for conspiracy under the criminal laws of this Commonwealth;" but the act itself does not recite any offense indictable as "conspiracy," and it relieves those only who could not be so indicted. On the other hand, it creates a new offense, not before punishable at common law, so that it is, in fact, an act to subject laborers to prosecution for a new offense, which it defines. The bill was, therefore, a carefully concealed trap, its real purpose being hidden under its false title.

This act provides that it shall be lawful for any laborer or laborers, acting either as individuals or in an organized capacity, to refuse to work for any one when, in their opinion, the wages are insufficient, or when their treatment is brutal or offensive, without being subject to prosecutions for conspiracy; but this was a right the workingmen had before the act was passed, so that it conferred no new privilege upon them. The nub or gist of the act was contained in the concluding proviso, which reads thus:

Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the prosecution and punishment, under existing laws, of any person or persons *who shall in any way hinder persons who desire to labor for their employers from so doing, or other persons from being employed as laborers.*"

The words italicized created a new offense, not punishable under the common law, and it was under this act, which was sustained by Judge Orvis, that Messrs. Siney and Parks were indicted and tried in the Clearfield court.

Having felt the grip of this legislation, prepared by his Democratic friend Wallace, Mr. Siney comes here with a bill to amend the act of 1872 by declaring that it shall be so construed "that the use of lawful or peaceful means shall not be regarded as 'in any way hindering' persons who desire to labor, and that the use of force or threats of harm to persons or property shall alone be regarded as in any way hindering men from laboring for whom they please. In this shape the bill will pass.

The bill to permit defendants to testify in criminal cases was made a special order for Thursday afternoon next, and a regular field-fight may be looked for on that occasion. This bill was more ably debated than any other at last session, and bids fair to draw out a very able discussion again. Messrs. Albright, Yerkes, Newmyer, Anderson, Ermentrout and Jones will speak in its favor, and Messrs. Bechtel, Davis, Winslow and others against it. The new Senator, Allen, will be heard on both sides, and tertiebl have not yet given an indication as to how they will vote.

The Committee on Public Buildings has agreed to report the bill for taking the vote of the people on the removal of the seat of Government from Harrisburg to Philadelphia. There is an insane idea prevalent that the members of the Legislature will find it pleasanter in Philadelphia than here, and for that reason alone the bill is likely to pass. It provides that Philadelphia shall bear the expense of erecting the necessary buildings and purchasing the needed grounds; but as there is no power in the Legislature to compel Philadelphia to bear anything, there is no guarantee that she will willingly consent to endure it.

It would cost millions of dollars to put up a new Capitol, with public offices and a Governor's mansion, in Philadelphia, and a city already burdened with fifty millions of debt and a cruel load of taxation, is not in a condition to undertake the task of erecting public buildings for the State. She has an unfinished City Hall on her hands, which she cannot now complete, and for the further progress of which she has refused to levy a tax. The first story of it is now above ground, and has already cost millions; and nothing short of ten millions will complete it. She would not, certainly, if asked, undertook the task of how to agree to make the Capitol for the State Government less imposing than her own City Hall; and if she is unable to finish the latter, how is she to go to work to erect and build the former? Issue more bonds and increase her debt and taxes? For all the good the removal of the seat of Government would do her, she cannot afford to pay such an enormous price for it.

The new Capitol at Albany has already cost six or seven millions, and is very far from completion. It cannot be finished under ten millions, and it is likely to cost much more. Are the people of the State prepared to enter upon an expenditure involving them in any such enormous sum, and that solely to oblige those Representatives who find more attractions in Philadelphia life than in Harrisburg?

Mr. Myers has a bill for the erection of watering troughs on country roads was amended so as to apply only to counties having over 45,000 inhabitants, which would be applicable to more than one-third of the State. The Northern and Northwestern counties did not want it, and it could not have passed without their aid.

The insertion of this provision, which appears to be perfectly constitutional, opens the door to a flood of special legislation which nothing can prevent after the way for letting it loose has been found out. The decision of the Supreme Court that the Legislature has the right to classify cities, and to legislate specially for cities of a particular class, even though there be but one in that class, has led to the conclusion that it may legislate also for counties classified by population. It may thus pass special acts for counties having over 250,000 and less than 300,000 inhabitants, and those having over 100,000 and less than 150,000; for those having over 150,000 and less than 200,000. Also for those containing less than ten thousand, and so on through the list. Allegheny can thus get legislation, within the constitutional limit, applicable only to itself, and so can Philadelphia. Luzerne and any other county that can be classified by itself. The new Constitution has not, therefore, cut off special legislation. A legitimate way has been found for it, sustained by a judicial construction of our fundamental law. Of course, the special legislation specifically prohibited by the Constitution still remains *tabooed*.

The bill to authorize an appeal to court from the assessments of real estate made under direction of the County Commissioners, and to authorize the courts to equalize valuations, has a formidable opposition, but will go through, if the Senate be full. The importance of the bill to counties like Allegheny cannot be overestimated.

SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 28, 1876.

This was killing day in the Senate. The committees negatived nearly all the bills reported, and the Senate killed two bills, one on third reading and one on second reading. Such was the savage temper prevalent, that most of the Senators asked that their bills should go over until next week, preferring delay to the almost certainty of defeat.

The bills slaughtered were Mr. Albright's bill to make judicial sales of property, wipe out all claims except those which are made by law, prior liens, such as mortgages, municipal assessments, laborers' wages, &c., and Mr. Butterfield's bill to require the courts to appoint none but members of the bar as auditors for the settlement of estates, &c. Mr. Albright's bill had twenty-three votes to eleven, but as it takes twenty-six votes to pass a bill, it fell. Butterfield's bill got only his own vote and that of Mr. Stanton, of Luzerne. The other lawyers were all against it.

Mr. McMullen's bill, to authorize an appeal to the courts from the County Commissioners in the matter of county assessments, got through by a bare constitutional majority—twenty-six to eleven. It has now gone to the House.

Mr. Newmyer's bill to fix the salaries of county officers in counties having over 150,000 inhabitants, was reported with such a host of amendments that it is impossible to give its present condition; but it retains the Allegheny law pretty much as it stands, and provides that it shall not affect those now in office. The Philadelphia members insisted upon this, and upon fixing large salaries for their county officers.

The special committee on the Tramp Nuisance reported a new bill relative to vagrants and vagrancy, which it is thought will prove satisfactory. It embodies many, if not most, of the features of the bill proposed by the late convention of Poor Directors at Altoona.

Mr. Conger, a member of Mr. Gannon's explanation, withdrew his objection.

Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, criticised one of the principles of prohibition inserted in the bill, "Things adapted for any indecent or immoral purpose," as being too broad, and recalled the time when Salisbury newspapers were thrown out of the mails as immoral publications.

Mr. Cannon defended the bill from Mr. Hoar's criticisms, and claimed that the whole scope of Section 3 of the bill was the purpose of preventing the circulation of obscene matter in the mails.

Mr. Garfield represented that the House ought to be very careful in this class of legislation, and recalled an instance of conscientious character, the fact that a few years ago the publishers of a New York paper were sent to the penitentiary for publishing matter based on a contribution from George Francis Train, wholly illegal in its character, and in point of the ordinarily received notions of the Trinity, but in which not a word or sentence was erroneous was used. The judge, however, charged the jury that the paper was blasphemous in the highest degree, and the jury found the most lisher guilty. If the language of the law was liable to a construction of that sort, so that really Congress would center the domain of theological opinion and bring down upon men the odium of *autos-da-fé*, which was worse even than political odium, the House ought to be exceedingly careful in its legislation concerning that subject.

Mr. Chittenden moved the recommittal of the bill, and expressed his desire to go before the committee that he might show by recent transactions in Brooklyn, the impropriety of making the Postmaster-General the sole judge of what is obscene matter. He had no special case of oppression against an honorable and innocent man that required an amendment of the law, but he was entirely way from that proposed.

Mr. Kelley suggested that such a law would exclude from the mails newspapers containing reports of the Beecher trial.

Mr. C. A. Woodward moved to strike out the clause in favor of excluding from the mails whatever newspaper or book contained "reports of cases of an obscene character, or of a character calculated to corrupt the morals of the country. Mr. Hoar, however, insisted, and with his judgment this bill very clearly exposed the press of the country to a danger a hundred fold greater than that which existed in Poland's bill, which so justly excited the press of the country. The danger to the Government in any locality should find that a paper contained matter which might be devoted to a purpose which, if carried out, would be regarded as not immoral, the jury might convict the man who sent it or the man who received it through the mails, and in the night could be left in the paper from the mails. If the bill was to be recommitted, he hoped that the point would be raised in the hearing of the House, so that the new law might correct the great danger to which the mails and people were exposed by the bill as it now stood.

Mr. Hazelton, from the Committee on Commerce, reported back, adversely, the bill to establish a Department of Commerce. Laid on the table.

Mr. Douglass, from the Committee on Patents, reported a bill to amend section 1970 of the Revised Statutes, so as to prohibit clerks or employees in any of the offices of the Government from acting as the agent, attorney or agent, or being interested in any form for prosecuting either claims or patents. Application for patents was pending at the time they were such clerks or employees; also that any Government officer recognizing such person in any application should be subject to a penalty of $500. After discussion the bill passed.

The House went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Hoskins in the Chair, on the Pacific Railroad appropriation bill ($42,844,320).

Mr. Banning addressed the committee. He spoke of times being hard, money being scarce in the South, and said that it was the duty of Congress to cut off every unnecessary expenditure and to exercise the strictest economy. He was opposed to aid or assistance might not be expected from the other (Republican) side of the House, because the Democratic party in Congress, in the Legislature, in discussion participated in by Messrs. Hale, of Maine, Blackburn and Dunnell.

Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, objected to further alteration of the record, and there the matter ended.

Mr. Cannon, from the Committee on Post-offices and Post Roads, reported a bill to amend sections 3,893 and 3,894, providing penalties for the sending of obscene matter through the mails.

The bill having been read, Mr. Conger criticised it as being too general and sweeping in this, that it would apply to newspapers in which an offensive advertisement might be inserted.

Mr. Cannon defended the bill, claiming that it was in the direction of the existing law and did not seek to legislate against newspapers, unless they were received or published in pursuance of a scheme to disseminate this offensive kind of literature.

Mr. Conger, in behalf of Mr. Gannon's explanation, withdrew his objection.

Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, criticised one of the principles of prohibition inserted in the bill, "Things adapted for any indecent or immoral purpose," as being too broad, and recalled the time when Salisbury newspapers were thrown out of the mails as immoral publications.

Mr. Cannon defended the bill from Mr. Hoar's criticisms, and claimed that the whole scope of Section 3 of the bill was the purpose of preventing the circulation of obscene matter in the mails.

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Mr. Chittenden moved the recommittal of the bill, and expressed his desire to go before the committee that he might show,

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial
HARRISBURG, PA., February 1, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate was called to order at 11 A. M., by President *pro tem.* Davis.

Mr. Clarke presented four petitions from Westmoreland county, numerously signed, asking that the Legislature instruct the Pennsylvania delegation in Congress to vote for the bill extending aid to the Texas Pacific Railroad.

Mr. Cooper, from the Committee on Corporations, reported a joint resolution requesting the Attorney General to proceed by writ of *quo warranto* to have the franchises of the corporation chartered under the title of "The State Line and Juniata Railroad Company," now known as "The Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York Railroad Company."

Bills Introduced—Act to provide for the repair of dilapidated monuments on the line between the States of New York and Pennsylvania.

Act providing that when a ward, borough or city shall be divided into election precincts, there shall be an assessor for each precinct.

Bill providing that in case of a sale of a decedent's estate by the Orphans' Court, first mortgagees shall have power to divest their lien.

Authorizing commissioners of the several counties of the State to fix the compensation for light, rent and fuel for election districts in their respective counties.

Mr. Clarke—An act defining the limitation in prosecutions for forgery to five years after the crime is committed.

Act to authorize the Governor to appoint a suitable person to take temporary charge of the Marine Hospital at Erie.

Act defining and enlarging the duties of county surveyors.

Act providing that where a district containing 20,000 inhabitants shall have eight deaf mutes, it shall be lawful to establish a school for their instruction.

Act providing that in cases of the loss of investments made by persons in a fiduciary capacity in bonds or certificates, by order of a court, they shall not be liable for such loss.

On motion, the vote by which Senate bill No. 20, providing that the lien of mortgages shall not be destroyed by judicial sales was defeated, was reconsidered and, the bill being again upon its final passage, the yeas and nays were called and it passed finally.

Bills Passed Finally — Supplementary act to relieve laborers, workingmen and journeymen from certain prosecutions and indictments for conspiracy under the criminal laws of the Commonwealth, approved June 14, 1872.

Act to provide for the erection of water troughs for the use of horses and cattle on public roads.

Act relating to appeals in cases of summary conviction.

Act relating to bail in criminal cases taken by mayors, deputy mayors, aldermen and justices of the peace, requiring them to record on the information the residence of persons taken to bail and the location and extent of their property.

Joint resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth. The section providing for increasing the salaries of judges was stricken out, and the bill passed by a vote of 30 yeas to 19 nays.

Act relating to the transfer of loans of cities, boroughs, school districts and counties. Amended.

Act authorizing councils of cities of the Commonwealth of the third class to fill vacancies in the offices of city controller and city treasurer.

Bills on Second Reading—Act to regulate the amount of toll and other charges to be laid and collected by boom companies in the State.

It was moved to amend the bill by striking out ninety cents for boomage and making it one dollar.

Samuel Smith, of Pittsburgh, was nominated by the Governor as a notary public.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at 11 A. M.

Mr. Foster, on leave, submitted the following, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the use of the hall of the House of Representatives be granted this evening to the Anti-Monopoly Convention, to listen to Hon. Samuel Calvin.

Bills on Third Reading—Joint resolution providing for the purchase of Purdon's Digest for members.

Mr. Hasson moved to amend by reducing the number of digests to fifty, the same to remain in the Library and be drawn as other books are. Not agreed to.

Mr. Brown, of Erie, moved to amend by making the number twenty-five, to be kept in bookcases erected in the House and committee rooms, with executive documents and other works of reference, to be kept up in the future as a House Library.

Mr. Allen raised the point of order that the amendment would defeat the original intent of the bill and contained more than one subject.

Mr. Brown proposed to modify the amendment so as to meet the objections raised.

The point of order being insisted upon, the Chair submitted the same to the House and the point was sustained.

After some further attempts at amendment, the bill was defeated—yeas 81, nays 91. It would have required a two-third vote to pass the bill, and it has met its final defeat in the session.

Act fixing the compensation of arbitrators at two dollars per day. Negatived—yeas 74, nays 84.

Act fixing the compensation of Judges of the Supreme Court—Chief Justice, $7,500, and Associates, $7,000. Agreed to; yeas 160, nays 11. An attempt was made to defeat the above bill on its third reading, or final passage, by moving that Mr. Lawrence, Spang and Wolfe ably supported it and put it through with no increase of salary.

Act giving bounties upon wild cat and skunk scalps and for killing hawks and owls in the Commonwealth. Agreed to; yeas 103, nays 52.

Mr. Lusk read in place an act imposing a tax on derricks, oil tanks, etc., for county purposes.

Mr. Reighard reported the General Appropriation bill.

Adjourned.

The Anti-Monopoly State Convention is in session here, at Barr's Hall. Their meeting in the hall of the House to-night was largely attended. Much interest is taken in the matter.

The Finance Bill.

The defeat, Monday night, of the act to divert certain revenues from the sinking fund to the general fund creates much commotion here; but the House bill, somewhat modified, will shortly pass and become a law.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
HARRISBURG, PA., February 2, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate was called to order at 11 A. M., President Davis in the Chair.

The following bills were reported affirmatively from committees:

Act repealing the act of 1820 prohibiting horse racing, as far as the same relates to agricultural societies.

Act regulating the manner of stock to properly secure such stock from trespassing upon the property of others.

Act limiting prosecutions for forgery to five years after the offense is committed.

Act providing for recording and mortgaging interests in mining leases.

Act to protect the people of the State against incompetent practitioners of medicine, surgery and obstetrics.

Act providing for additional assessors in each separate election district of townships, wards, etc.

Act to provide for the organization and regulation of mutual fire insurance companies.

Bills Introduced—Act consolidating and amending the several game laws and making a general law.

Act providing for increasing the capital stock and indebtedness of corporations.

Relating to fire and marine insurance companies.

Mr. Newmyer—To amend the act, approved April 18, 1874, relating to the manner of increasing the capital stock and indebtedness of corporations. Also, to amend the act fixing the liabilities of stockholders of banks.

Mr. Ermentrout—Fixing the compensation of members of the General Assembly and the compensation of certain officers, employees thereof.

Mr. Hill—Act to regulate the publication of legal notices in newspapers, providing that legal notices be required to be published in the papers designated by the parties.

Mr. Newmyer—Amending bank liability act, making stockholders liable for all debts and deposits to double the amount of the capital stock. The act shall not apply to banks already chartered, until accepted by their stockholders.

The following resolutions were offered by Mr. Cooper, which were laid on the table:

WHEREAS, The Senator from Allegheny, Dr. Wood, has outraged and scandalized the entire people of the State by selecting the coldest day of the year for a national holiday; and

WHEREAS, The ground hog has this morning appeared and departed with his baneful shadow, thereby entailing upon us six weeks more of bad weather; therefore

Resolved, That the said Dr. Wood, in company with the ground hog, be handed over to the tender mercies of Old Probabilities, and that their bodies be turned over to the National Board of Surgeons, in the interests of anatomical science.

The following bill passed finally: Act relating to the transfer of loans of cities, boroughs, school districts and counties.

Bills on Second Reading—Relating to the service of notice of time and place of meeting of arbitrators. Agreed to.

To exempt pianos and organs from levy and sale on execution on distress for rent. Agreed to.

Authorizing and regulating the issuance of venires for the attendance of jurors in the several courts of the Commonwealth. Agreed to.

House bill enabling assignees for the benefit of creditors to make sale of real estate encumbered by lien. Agreed to.

To regulate the amount of toll and other charges to be laid and collected by boom companies within the Commonwealth. Amended by Mr. Boyer, to make the rate of boomage, per thousand feet, one dollar, instead of ninety cents, as in the original bill.

Act regulating passenger fare and freight rates on railroads not exceeding fifteen miles in length. Agreed to.

Prescribing how employees of persons, partnerships, associations and corporations engaged in mining coal or the manufacture and production of iron or steel shall be paid for their labor and services.

Pending discussion on the latter bill the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at 11 A. M.

Mr. Christy called up the resolution offered by himself some days ago, providing for the final adjournment of the Legislature on the 23d of March, and that no bill shall be read after the 6th of that month.

The resolution was discussed by Messrs. Wolfe and Christy, in favor; and by Messrs. Lusk, Spang, Irwin, of Allegheny, and Zern against.

The question was then divided. On the first division—"Will the House agree to adjourn on the 23d of March?"—yeas 57, nays 128.

On the second division—"Will the House read no bill after the 6th of March?"—Mr. Wolfe moved to amend that the Legislature adjourn *sine die* April 6th, and that it was then read after the 23d of March.

On motion of Dr. Lusk, the whole subject was laid on the table—yeas 118, nays 58.

Bills on Second Reading—Supplementary to the act dividing cities into three classes. Referred to a special committee. The above is Mr. Long's bill, dividing cities into five, instead of three classes, as at present. It was discussed at length. All amendments were voted down, leaving the bill as written by Mr. Long and approved by Senator Wallace, author of the Wallace bill. It was referred to a special committee consisting of one member from each city of the third class. The bill is intended to prevent unsuitable legislation from being forced on cities, and is being advocated by every city in the State represented in the House.

Mr. Reutter, from the Special Committee appointed to investigate the affairs of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad and of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, submitted a report.

Mr. Losch, from the same committee, submitted a minority report, which was also read.

The House then adjourned.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

The Northampton Bank Robbery—$670,000 of Securities Stolen.

BOSTON, January 27.—the burglars who entered the Northampton bank Wednesday night first secured the Cashier in his home and took from him the keys of the vault. The table of securities taken shows a total of $670,000. Of course much of this is not negotiable, so that it is difficult to estimate the real loss to the bank and its depositors. The bank officers offer a reward of $25,000 for the return of the property and conviction of the burglars. The loss falls comparatively light upon the bank, the greater part of the securities belonging to special depositors.

The robbers entered the house of Cashier Whitlesey and bound, gagged and guarded for hours seven people. They compelled him to give them the combinations of the safe vault, waited until they knew the night watchman had gone home and then, getting into the vault and into the safe, one of the four keys needed, took the large amount of securities. An expert had to be summoned from New York, and the lock was not opened until at an early hour this morning. Cashier Whitlesey, when asked to give the three combinations to the vault for the outer, inner and chest doors, gave them wrong twice and thrice, but the burglars took them down and made him repeat them. Of course they caught him in the attempt to mislead them, and the exhibition of a pistol compelled him to tell the truth, though he told them four keys were necessary to open the lock, three of which were at the house of other bank officers. At four o'clock, A. M., Whittlesey was taken to a down stairs bed room, the whole family being bound, and four of the burglars withdrew to operate on the bank. Three hours after, Mrs. Whitlesey succeeded in freeing herself and giving an alarm from a window. The whole party were speedily released, and Cashier, still wearing the handcuffs, went to the bank. A clever workman soon after fitted a key and all the persons handcuffed were released. An examination of the bank showed all the outside doors unlocked the outer door, but were apparently balked by the safe lock, lacking three of the requisite four keys. They tried the metal of the door with bars, and wrenched two of its dials which served as a lock for working the combination. They were entirely unmolested, the watch having gone home. There is every indication that six, and perhaps seven of them, left on the 5 o'clock train. Five of them had tickets, previously bought, and one paid his fare. Many of the appliances, it was remarked, were home-made. Cotton masks, and rubber balls, pierced with a stiff wire. The masks were drawers' legs, some with one hole and some with two for the eyes. When the robbers saw that Whitlesey was watching them carefully for some marks of identification, they blindfolded him, but he observed that one of them was of very commanding stature. The two or three robbers left up stairs to guard the house took their departure in season to catch the Springfield train. At the latest advices, no information had been received of the robbers.

The table of funds taken, is as follows: Missouri State bonds, $15,000; Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad shares, $5,000; Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, $3,000; Chicago, Burlington and Quincy eights, $10,000; Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati, $2,000; Union Pacific, $44,000; Ohio and Mississippi, second mortgages, $105,000; Union Pacific land grants, $30,000; Atcheson, Topeka and Santa Fe, $15,000; Fort Wayne, Jackson and Saginaw, $12,000; Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain; $6,000, Missouri Pacific, $30,000; Registered stock and bonds of the United States and various corporations, $350,000 to $400,000; greenbacks and national bank bills, $10,000; Detroit, Lansing and Lake Michigan, $7,000; New York and Erie, $5,000; Portland Maine State bonds, $10,000; Hudson River Railroad bonds, $5,000.

The following are the numbers of some of the securities abstracted: Missouri Pacific Railroad, No. 3,729, due 1886, and No. 3,879, due 1886; Northern Missouri Railroad, No. 1934, 1883, and No. 2,035, due 1892; Cairo and Fulton bond No. 540, due 1889; Consolidated Cairo and Fulton, No. 3,596, due 1888; No. 3,597, due 1888; No. 3,600, due 1888, and No. 3,601, due 1888; Rock Island and Pacific bonds, Nos. 872, 1,328, 648, 609 and 693; two Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis bonds, Nos. 114 and 115; two Ohio and Mississippi bonds, Nos. 3,393 and 3,394; Lake Shore and Michigan Southern sinking fund, Nos. 60, 61 and 221; and forty-two Union Pacific sinking fund coupon bonds, of $1,000 each, Nos. 5,153 to 5,194 inclusive.

Of the total amount stolen, the loss of only $12,000 falls on the bank. The heaviest individual sufferers, are as follows: Ex-Judge C. E. Forbess, $100,000 in United States six per cent. bonds, registered; $28,000 five per cent, registered, and $70,000 national bank stocks; Henry Henckley, $80,000 in United States bonds; Henry Bright, a large amount of negotiable bonds; J. S. Lathrop, $30,000 in Georgia bonds; Jas. Warner, $14,000 in negotiable bonds; O. G. Spellman, $30,000 in negotiable bonds; Wm. Gaylord, $10,000 in United States bonds; Mrs. Jane Joyce, Miss Jane and Richard Kingman and Horace O. Collins are also among the principal sufferers. A small safe in the vault, which the burglars considered too impregnable to open, contained $30,000, deposited by Harvey Kirkland, $25,000 in bonds belonging to the Hopkins Academy and other valuable property. By locking the doors of the vault, the burglars got twenty-four hours start of the detectives, besides having time to negotiate much of the stolen property before the fact of the burglary was known.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 27.—A dispatch received to-day at the Treasury from the Northampton National Bank of Massachusetts, states that $2,900 in unsigned five dollar notes of the bank were secured by the burglars on the night of the 26th inst. The numbers of the notes are as follows: Bank, Nos. 1 to 145, and Department, Nos. 229, 751 to 229, 895, series of 1875.

Heavy Defalcation in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., January 27.—Jonathan Earle, Treasurer of the Norfolk and New Brunswick Hosiery Company, is a defaulter to the amount of $142,000. He has turned over property and stock sufficient to cover the defalcation, but the securities are not convertible at present. It appears that on the 3d inst. J. B. Earle, of New York, kept his bank account and was given blank checks signed by Earle, as Treasurer, to fill out when required, to meet bills of the company. McDaniel filled out the blank checks signed at command, he has overdrawn to the amount stated. It is said that young Earle speculated in Wall street.

Prisoners Attempt to Burn a Jail.

CINCINNATI, January 28.—The *Commercial* special says: Eight prisoners in the Athens county, Ohio, jail attempted to escape by burning one end of the building, but the heat becoming intense they were obliged to call for aid to extinguish the flames and so the attempt failed.

Express Robbers Entrapped.

TOLEDO, January 27.—A well laid plan to rob the express car of the night express coming east from Chicago last night was discovered and frustrated, all the parties thereto being arrested. The officials of the Express company in this city received information of the plot nearly a week ago, and Superintendent Cone and Agent Chapin, together with the Chief of Police and two detectives, left the city last night and joined the eastbound train at Archold, Ohio, stationing themselves in the express and baggage cars. At Wauson Junction, the former employees of the railway company, got on board and as soon as the train was well under way proceeded to bore out parts of the panel in the door of the express car, during which operation a preconcerted signal was given and the officers in waiting pounced upon and secured the entire party, who are now in jail here. The safe in the express car contained $75,000 in currency and over $125,000 in bullion.

Funeral of Congressman Starkweather.

NORWICH, CONN., January 31.—The funeral of the late Congressmen Starkweather took place this afternoon at the Central Baptist church. Public buildings in the city were generally draped in mourning, and there was a general suspension of business. The remains were taken to Yantec Cemetery, followed by a large procession. The pall bearers were Major Osgood, Colonel Allen Tenney, Colonel James Selden, E. G. Bidwell, Colonel Sabin, L. Sayles and Hon. Jeremiah Olney.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial
WASHINGTON, D. C., January 31, 1876.

General Babcock's Trial.

Information received at the Treasury Department from St. Louis, states that the trial of General Babcock will not take place until after the conclusion of that of Meguire, which will doubtless run into next week. It is also intimated that there is a strong probability of the acquittal of McKee. His prominence in the community, his high influence and wealth, it is thought, will go far towards turning the balance of any doubts which may exist in the minds of the jury in his favor. The trial of General Babcock will consume many days, and will be one of the most important of the kind on record. There is an immense quantity of correspondence in possession of the Government which passed between the General and divers other officials and persons of prominence and bearing on appointments. It is said that the insight into the manipulation of offices and political workings will be quite novel and entertaining. It will also possess increased interest on account of the high character of the witnesses who are likely to be summoned, and who will appear in person or by deposition. The Secretary of the Treasury has not yet been summoned, but it is presumed that he will be, in which event he will be present. The main feature of the trial of General Babcock will be the interpretation of his correspondence with convicted or suspected parties. There is no doubt that the ordeal through which he will have to pas2 will be most severe. The friends of General Babcock, feeling assured of his ability to satisfactorily explain his letters and telegrams, express themselves as gratified at the proposed thoroughness of his trial, as the proof of his innocence will therefore be more positively affirmed.

Republican Congressional Committee.

The organization of the Congressional Committee in the caucus of Republicans last Saturday, is largely in the interests of Senator Morton for the Presidency. A majority are warm friends and supporters of the Senator from Indiana. The advocates of the other candidates show open signs of demoralization over this unexpected *coup d'etat*.

The Commissioner of Pensions.

nominated to-day, was Colonel of the Twenty-ninth Wisconsin Volunteers in the late war, four years Attorney General of Wisconsin, and recently has represented the Government as attorney for the Fox and Wisconsin river improvement, arising out of damage from overflow.

Morrison's Tariff Bill.

The free trade tariff bill, introduced by Mr. Morrison, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, does not represent the views of the Committee, and will be reported to the House in a materially modified form. There is no probability of it becoming a law.

Senator Cameron Interviewed—His Opinions on the Campaign of 1876—He is Not Pledged to Any Candidate.

Senator Cameron says that the persons who have been representing him as committed to the support of any particular individual for the Presidency are very much mistaken. The venerable Senator from Pennsylvania, in conversation on this subject, remarked that there were many things to consider before a decision could be made in reference to the most suitable person to receive the nomination of the Republican Convention for the high office of President of the United States. He said that Pennsylvania carried a large number of electorial votes and, as at different times in the past, in the Presidential election of 1876 her vote might decide the contest. This, in addition to the considerations of her vast industries and manifold interests, her large population and great wealth, rendered it doubly important that her people should act wisely and with caution; and, therefore, those intrusted with the execution of the peoples wishes should consult their duty with reference to all these things.

The Senator said: "Therefore I am not for individuals, but for the good of the whole country, which I believe to lie in the success of the Republican party, and such a candidate should be nominated as would insure both—that is, the peace, happiness and prosperity of the country and the perpetuation of the party which preserved the Union from destruction. These are my views, as a citizen of the United States. As a son of the old Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I want a candidate to who will command all Pennsylvania and Pennsylvanians, recognize the one as an important element in the political fabric of the Union, and the other as entitled to her full measure of the administration of the affairs of the Government."

The Senator thought that it would be very injudicious, in the present juncture of affairs, to take sides for any single person, but would prefer to wait until popular opinion had crystallized into some definite shape. He entertains a high respect for Conkling, Morton, Blaine and others who have been mentioned in connection with the Republican nomination, but he said he was not committed to none of them, that he thought that, so far as Pennsylvania was concerned, no wise selection would be made. The Senator said that he thought it very fortunate that the Democrats succeeded in a partial election in Ohio, striking the first danger signal the House they had given the people a fine sample of what might be expected if they secured full control of the Government; that under the pressure of the hard times the people were disgusted and thought a change would relieve them, thus making a Democratic triumph possible. The delusion under which the people had been laboring, even though partially exploded, and he could say for Pennsylvania that they would not repeat the error of 1874 for many years to come. With a Republican Senate, Democratic House, he thought we would enter the second century of our national life under the most favorable auspices.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., February 1, 1876.

Reorganization of the Judiciary.

Representative McCrary has been authorized by the Judiciary Committee to report a bill for the reorganization of the judiciary system of the United States. The object in view is to relieve the Supreme Court of its increasing business and to facilitate justice, without increasing the number of judges. The bill establishes intermediate Courts of Appeal, relieves the Supreme Court from hearing many cases and makes a distribution of business. The increase of business in the Supreme Court in 1810, was ninety-eight; in 1820, 137; in 1842, 165; and in 1875, 901.

The Presidential Term Amendment.

The discussion to-day of the bill limiting the Presidential term to four years and making the incumbent ever after ineligible, indicated that both parties are disposed to take some definite action. The one term of six years, seems to meet with most favor and it appears as if this, or the present system, would prevail. The fixing of the time at 1885, is to afford time for the States to act upon the amendment. It is thought that the time will insure the adoption of the amendment by the States.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., February 2, 1876.

General Banks Corrects the "World."

General Banks pronounces the letter published in the New York *World*, and purporting to have been written by him, as a forgery. The statements expressed therein are not in accordance with his views.

The Granger Candidate for President.

A delegation of Western men are expected here shortly to confer with Judge David Davis, of the United States Supreme Court, in reference to his nomination as the Democratic Granger candidate for the Presidency. Judge Davis received the nomination of the Cleveland Labor Convention in 1872, but, not having the recognition of Cincinnati and Baltimore, it subsequently fell through.

Smith versus Kounts.

Ex-Commissioner of Indian Affairs Smith, with several army officers, has made a statement before the Committee on Indian Affairs in reply to the charges of Mr. Kountz, of Pittsburg, made recently, that Smith had rejected his bid for furnishing Indian supplies and awarded it to a higher bidder. Mr. Smith admitted the fact, but asserted that he did so because Kountz was irresponsible. There will be further inquiry.

Fast Mails Unprofitable.

It is anticipated that, unless the receipts from the fast mails are greater, they will be discontinued. It is found that, so far, the amount of mail matter sent by these trains is far below the cost of transportation.

The Parkman—Brooks Claim—Case Against Assistant Secretary Sawyer—Alteration of Official Papers.

The following is a copy of the original letter of the Comptroller of the Treasury and the indorsement as altered, which led to the payment of the fraudulent cotton claim of Parkman, Brooks & Co.:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
FIRST COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., February 6, 1874.

Sir: I return herewith the report of the Commissioner of Customs on the claim of P. D. Roddy. The only authority known to me for paying the claim is contained in section 5, act of May 18,1872, 17 Statutes, page 134, which, in my opinion, makes the necessary appropriation. The account and warrant should be in the name of Parkman, Brooks & Co., the claim not being assignable before the issuing of a warrant for its payment. I have not examined the case with a view of forming an opinion of its merits, for that would not be within my official duties. When properly reported by the Auditor and admitted and certified by the Commissioner, the duty of other officers of the department in relation to the claim will be the same as in other cases.

I am, very respectfully,
R. W. TAYLER, Comptroller.

To Hon. W. A. Richardson, Secretary of the Treasury.

On this paper is the following indorsement, in Secretary Richardson's handwriting, with the alterations in a different hand, alleged to be Assistant Secretary Sawyer's. The words in brackets are the alterations:

"Respectfully [approved and] referred to the FIRST Auditor for ['examination and;' these words are crossed out] settlement. Payable from the appropriation for 'Refunding the proceeds of cotton seized,' act May 18, 1872, 17 Statutes, page 134.

[Signed] W. A. RICHARDSON,
"F. A. S." Secretary."

On the back, in Sawyer's writing (said to be by competent authorities), and in the same hand as the alterations of the above, are the words: "Special—F. A. Sawyer, Assistant Secretary."

The above letter was written more than a year after the expiration of the act of May 18, 1872.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 1, 1876.

DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS.

The Democratic caucus was held to-night, continuing to a late hour, Representative Lamar in the chair and Representative Banning Secretary. One hundred and sixty members were present. The Chairman announced the Congressional Campaign Committee, heretofore ordered, as follows:

Representatives Clymer, of Pennsylvania, Chairman; Chapin, of Massachusetts; Throckmorton, of Texas; Hooker, of Mississippi; Hewett, of New York; Robbins, of North Carolina, and Savler, of Ohio.

W. T. Corcoran, J. E. Harvey and Judge Meaner are members on the part of the District of Columbia.

The Senate appointed, as part of the Committee, Senators Whyte, of Maryland; Wallace, of Pennsylvania, and Gordon, of Georgia.

The Chairman of the caucus also announced the Committee on Consultation, as follows:

Representatives Cox, of New York; Whitthorne, of Tennessee; Randall, of Pennsylvania; Goode, of Virginia; Buckner, of Missouri; Wigginton, of California; Hartridge, of Georgia; Blackburn, of Kentucky; Tarbox, of Massachusetts; Lynde, of Wisconsin; Eden, of Illinois; Payne, of Ohio, and Caldwell, of Alabama.

Mr. Landers, of Indiana, introduced his resolution declaring for the repeal of the Specie Resumption act.

Mr. Payne, of Ohio, offered, as an amendment, his resolution favoring resumption and opposing both inflation and contraction, but declaring upon a percentage of gold coin as a preliminary means to resumption. He supported his proposition in an hour's speech, and much interested his auditors.

Mr. Bright supported Mr. Landers's resolution, and Mr. Holman expressed his views in favor of the substitution of United States notes for national bank paper.

No action was taken on the pending propositions, which are reserved for further consideration.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 31, 1876.

CALL FOR WAR RECORDS.

It having been brought to the attention of the Secretary of War that there are in existence, in different parts of the country, many records, such as battle records, correspondence, etc., relating to the late civil strife, he authorizes the statement that if any one who has original official documents pertaining to the war, either on the Union or Confederate side, will send them to the Secretary they will be copied for use in connection with the publication of the records of the war and returned to the owners when accompanied by such a request. Originals must be sent, copies for obvious reasons, cannot be accepted.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Spain.

REVIEW OF RECENT OPERATIONS IN THE NORTH.

LONDON, February 1.—The *Times* this morning publishes a letter from San Sebastian, from which are gleaned the following interesting details and the results of some of the initial engagements between the Royalists and Carlists in Northern Spain:

The movement by the Royalists toward Vera, on the 25th of January, was but a feint to cover the real attack on Guetaria. Guetaria is the only point the Carlists have held on the Cantabrian coast west of San Sebastian since the commencement of the war. General Moriones, commanding in San Sebastian, embarked two battalions of troops, which landed at Guetaria before daylight on the 26th. These immediately attacked and captured the high ground of Guetaretondi, which commands the town of Guetaria. The Carlists fled almost without firing a shot. It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of this movement. It completely upsets the condition of the Guipuzcoan campaign, renders necessary the abandonment of the Carlist positions from which they bombarded Bilbao, and opens an easy route whereby Gen. Moriones may advance into Biscay, threatening Durango and other Carlist centers, to a junction with General Loma's forces, now advancing from the direction of Bilbao. Several other important movements have commenced most favorably, and should subsequent operations be crowned with equal success, Carlism will soon have received its death blow in the Western provinces.

MARTINEZ CAMPOS DRIVING THEM.

SAN SABASTIAN, February 1.—Advices received here announce that General Martinez Campos is advancing into the heart of Navarre, driving the Carlists toward the mountains of the frontier. A great panic is said to prevail among the Carlists at Vera and at other points on the Bidassoa river. General Moriones continues the movement he commenced yesterday.

THE CARLISTS CLAIM THE VICTORY.

TOLOSA, February 1.—The Carlists deny that they were defeated at Santa Barbara. They claim that their General Perula repulsed the Republicans, compelling them to retire to Beasain. Don Carlos himself is advancing on Lorca was defeated and recreated precipitately, and that General Moriones received a severe check on the 29th of January.

QUESADA GETS THROUGH TO BILBAO.

BILBAO, February 1.—General Quesada has arrived here, having marched through Biscay without serious resistance. Fourteen Carlist battalions were concentrated at Gernica, but they appear discouraged and undisciplined.

GENERAL BURRIEL'S CASE IN HAND.

LONDON, February 1.—A dispatch from Santander to the *Times* announces that General Burriel, Military Governor of Bilbao, has been summoned to Madrid on account of the Virginius affair, and left Santander on Monday.

France.

THE BREMERHAVEN EXPLOSION—RESULT OF THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION.

LONDON, February 2.—The report presenting the result of the investigation into the Bremerhaven explosion, has been published by the Bremerhaven authorities. According to his own deposition, the name of the perpetrator is Williams King Thomson. He was born in Brooklyn in 1830. His parents, who emigrated from Hamburg to America, are now living in Virginia. Thomson has been employed for years in running the blockade during the late war in the United States, when he escaped and fled to the South, where he passed himself off as a Canadian. It is thought that the time will insure the adoption of the amendment by the States.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., February 2, 1876.

General Banks Corrects the "World."

General Banks pronounces the letter published in the New York *World*, and purporting to have been written by him, as a forgery. The statements expressed therein are not in accordance with his views.

The Granger Candidate for President.

A delegation of Western men are expected here shortly to confer with Judge David Davis, of the United States Supreme Court, in reference to his nomination as the Democratic Granger candidate for the Presidency. Judge Davis received the nomination of the Cleveland Labor Convention in 1872, but, not having the recognition of Cincinnati and Baltimore, it subsequently fell through.

Smith versus Kounts.

Ex-Commissioner of Indian Affairs Smith, with several army officers, has made a statement before the Committee on Indian Affairs in reply to the charges of Mr. Kountz, of Pittsburg, made recently, that Smith had rejected his bid for furnishing Indian supplies and awarded it to a higher bidder. Mr. Smith admitted the fact, but asserted that he did so because Kountz was irresponsible. There will be further inquiry.

Fast Mails Unprofitable.

It is anticipated that, unless the receipts from the fast mails are greater, they will be discontinued. It is found that, so far, the amount of mail matter sent by these trains is far below the cost of transportation.

The Parkman—Brooks Claim—Case Against Assistant Secretary Sawyer—Alteration of Official Papers.

The following is a copy of the original letter of the Comptroller of the Treasury and the indorsement as altered, which led to the payment of the fraudulent cotton claim of Parkman, Brooks & Co.:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
FIRST COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., February 6, 1874.

Sir: I return herewith the report of the Commissioner of Customs on the claim of P. D. Roddy. The only authority known to me for paying the claim is contained in section 5, act of May 18,1872, 17 Statutes, page 134, which, in my opinion, makes the necessary appropriation. The account and warrant should be in the name of Parkman, Brooks & Co., the claim not being assignable before the issuing of a warrant for its payment. I have not examined the case with a view of forming an opinion of its merits, for that would not be within my official duties. When properly reported by the Auditor and admitted and certified by the Commissioner, the duty of other officers of the department in relation to the claim will be the same as in other cases.

I am, very respectfully,
R. W. TAYLER, Comptroller.

To Hon. W. A. Richardson, Secretary of the Treasury.

On this paper is the following indorsement, in Secretary Richardson's handwriting, with the alterations in a different hand, alleged to be Assistant Secretary Sawyer's. The words in brackets are the alterations:

"Respectfully [approved and] referred to the FIRST Auditor for ['examination and;' these words are crossed out] settlement. Payable from the appropriation for 'Refunding the proceeds of cotton seized,' act May 18, 1872, 17 Statutes, page 134.

[Signed] W. A. RICHARDSON,
"F. A. S." Secretary."

On the back, in Sawyer's writing (said to be by competent authorities), and in the same hand as the alterations of the above, are the words: "Special—F. A. Sawyer, Assistant Secretary."

The above letter was written more than a year after the expiration of the act of May 18, 1872.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 1, 1876.

DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS.

The Democratic caucus was held to-night, continuing to a late hour, Representative Lamar in the chair and Representative Banning Secretary. One hundred and sixty members were present. The Chairman announced the Congressional Campaign Committee, heretofore ordered, as follows:

Representatives Clymer, of Pennsylvania, Chairman; Chapin, of Massachusetts; Throckmorton, of Texas; Hooker, of Mississippi; Hewett, of New York; Robbins, of North Carolina, and Savler, of Ohio.

W. T. Corcoran, J. E. Harvey and Judge Meaner are members on the part of the District of Columbia.

The Senate appointed, as part of the Committee, Senators Whyte, of Maryland; Wallace, of Pennsylvania, and Gordon, of Georgia.

The Chairman of the caucus also announced the Committee on Consultation, as follows:

Representatives Cox, of New York; Whitthorne, of Tennessee; Randall, of Pennsylvania; Goode, of Virginia; Buckner, of Missouri; Wigginton, of California; Hartridge, of Georgia; Blackburn, of Kentucky; Tarbox, of Massachusetts; Lynde, of Wisconsin; Eden, of Illinois; Payne, of Ohio, and Caldwell, of Alabama.

Mr. Landers, of Indiana, introduced his resolution declaring for the repeal of the Specie Resumption act.

Mr. Payne, of Ohio, offered, as an amendment, his resolution favoring resumption and opposing both inflation and contraction, but declaring upon a percentage of gold coin as a preliminary means to resumption. He supported his proposition in an hour's speech, and much interested his auditors.

Mr. Bright supported Mr. Landers's resolution, and Mr. Holman expressed his views in favor of the substitution of United States notes for national bank paper.

No action was taken on the pending propositions, which are reserved for further consideration.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 31, 1876.

CALL FOR WAR RECORDS.

It having been brought to the attention of the Secretary of War that there are in existence, in different parts of the country, many records, such as battle records, correspondence, etc., relating to the late civil strife, he authorizes the statement that if any one who has original official documents pertaining to the war, either on the Union or Confederate side, will send them to the Secretary they will be copied for use in connection with the publication of the records of the war and returned to the owners when accompanied by such a request. Originals must be sent, copies, for obvious reasons, cannot be accepted.

WHISKY FRAUDS.

William McKee Convicted at St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, January 26.—Upon the resumption of the trial of McKee this morning, it was agreed between the Court, the counsel for the Government and for General Babcock, that neither Babcock nor the witnesses in Washington summoned for his case should be required to present themselves next Monday, at which date the case is set on the docket. The McKee trial will last all of this week, and Mr. Voorhees said there was a probability that the trial of Maguire, the ex-Collector, would be as long as McKee's. Babcock would follow Maguire. The instructions of the Court were that the defendant and witnesses should simply be instructed to hold themselves in readiness to come as soon as telegraphed for.

C. G. Megrue, who has been sick a couple of days, was recalled and his direct examination continued. Colonel Dyer repeated his question, which led to a long argument on Monday, on the declaration of co-conspirators. The question was "what conversation had you with Leavenworth at the time you paid him two shares of the ring money each week, relative to the distribution of those amounts" "Witness—I gave two packages each week to Leavenworth as per order from Joyce, to deliver one to McKee and the other to Ford. Joyce told me that as Ford was Collector and McKee in an influential newspaper, it was necessary to have them in the ring, for two officials were invariably paid to Leavenworth for those gentlemen. I occasionally talked to Leavenworth about what he did with the money thus given him, and always understood he delivered it to McKee and Ford. In November of 1872 McDonald and Joyce said that the ostensible object of the ring was accomplished, and it was time to quit, the election being over. I very readily agreed to it. During the time I was collector for the ring, no money was set aside by me for political purposes.

Maciot Thompson, Rudolph W. Ulrici and Louis Buescher, distillers, and Wm. J. Bassett, an ex-gauger, gave a history of their connection with the ring, but stated nothing against or even about McKee, and nothing was brought out on their cross-examination.

Joseph M. Fitzroy was recalled, and testified to having arranged an interview between McKee and Megrue at the Linden Hotel. After the interview terminated the witness went down to town with McKee. On the way down McKee told witness that Megrue was a bad man; that he [McKee] had to pay him money; that he had paid him $2,500. Witness then made a pointed question that the destruction of the records in the Collector's office, and said Concannon was present at the time, that about a bushel of papers were burned in the office stove, and that Concannon assisted in burning them. It will be recollected that Concannon testified yesterday that he left the Collector's office after showing Joyce, Fitzroy and Bevis the private papers that refused to examine were, and that he wasn't present when the papers were disposed of.

The witness continued: It was made part of the affair that Concannon should put some of the papers in the stove. These were the papers destroyed to prevent the detection of the frauds of the ring.

Meier Currin testified to having paid $60,000 to $70,000 to the ring. His payments were made in checks. He was sued in 1869 for deficiency of tax

gone to Connecticut with the remains of Mr. Sanford Bowles.

Adjourned.

HOUSE

On motion of Mr. WAX, the Senate bill removing the political disabilities of George S. Hawkins and others, was taken up and passed.

The SPEAKER then announced committees for reports.

Mr. PIERCE, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill granting an American register to the Hawaiian bark Arctic. After a protracted discussion, the bill passed.

Mr. GOODIN, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill providing for the sale of Kansas Indian lands. The morning hour having expired, the bill went over to the next morning hour, and the House took up, as the special order, the proposed amendment to the Constitution reported from the Judiciary Committee, which is that "no person who has held, or may hereafter hold, the office of President, shall ever again be eligible to said office."

To this proposition, Mr. FRYE, a member of the Judiciary Committee, offered the following as a substitute: "From and after the fourth day of March, in the year 1880, the term of the office of President of the United States shall be four years, and no person having been elected to and held the office of President, or who has for two years held such office, shall be ineligible to re-election."

The bill was discussed by Messrs. Knott, New, Frye, McCrary, Caulfield, Lawrence and Harris.

Mr. KNOTT gave notice that he would call the previous question on Wednesday, at the expiration of the morning hour. The House then adjourned, when a Democratic caucus was announced for this evening.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 2, 1876.

SENATE.

Mr. ALLISON, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported back the Senate bill to provide for the payment of claims for Indian depredations, and the same was referred to the Committee on Appropriations. So ordered.

The CHAIR laid before the Senate unfinished business, being the House joint resolution directing the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to pay the interest on the bonds issued in pursuance of the act of Congress approved March 3, 1875, out of any funds in the United States Treasury, subject to the regulation of such appropriation, and the pending question being on the amendment of Mr. Kernan, submitted yesterday, providing that any further issue of bonds, under or by virtue of said act of Congress, is hereby prohibited.

Mr. SARGENT defended the Board of Public Works. He referred to the statement of Mr. Bayard, yesterday, to the effect that he had been informed that the fees of counsel for shepherd and others had been paid in 3-65 bonds, and said he was sorry that the Senator was not in the *Record*, that he might read his exact language.

Mr. BAYARD said he had the manuscript before him, unchanged, and it was at the disposal of the Senator.

Mr. SARGENT said the charge of the Senator that these fees were paid in 3-65 bonds was reckless. By a little examination the Senator could have seen that the Board of Audit had all to do with issuing bonds, and not even the old city government.

Mr. MORTON said he had the authority of one of the District Commissioners for the statement that the Commissioners never passed upon or examined any claim for the payment of counsel fees for Shepherd, or any of the expenses of that investigation, and further, that they never authorized the payment of any money in any newspaper for publishing the testimony taken before the committee.

Mr. BAYARD read from his remarks of yesterday, to the effect that he had been informed that such payments of counsel fees in 3-65 bonds had been made, and said he did not say it was so, but asked of other Senators if it was true. He now asked if there was any denial of the statement that these fees had been paid out of the National Treasury.

Mr. MORTON replied that they had not.

Mr. SARGENT, resuming, said the men composing the Board of Public Works at that time, Washington a beautiful and healthful city, and there was nothing to do now but what they put a dollar into their pockets. The Senator from Delaware had spoken of gigantic crime committed by the Board of Public Works against Columbus Alexander. There were several indictments found by the grand jury, [Sargent] thought there might be cause, in the solemn judgment of the latter, for the belief that there was some foundation for the charge against him. [Sargent] would say, from his evidence before the committee, that Alexander offered to pay certain charges on the stolen books. Shepherd, Gridiron, as it has been alleged, did set up all this plot. The object of it was to discredit Alexander and show that he was privy to this crime of stealing books. He [Sargent] did not know Alexander and had not the slightest intention to do him injustice, but when he was lugged in here as the savior of the city from the grasp of between thieves, he [Sargent] thought it worth while to find out who was the thief and who the Savior.

The subject was further debated by Messrs. Morton and Edmunds.

Mr. SHERMAN opposed the amendment submitted by the Senator from New York [Kernan] and argued that the provisions of the new Constitution the money is not well spent, as the present system most effectually prevents any tampering with the general results.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY.

The increase in this department was principally caused by the number of advertisements of Sheriff's sales, which was occasioned by the large collections of the Sheriff on this account.

COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS.

The increase in the expenses of this court can only be explained by the prevalence of criminal business in certain localities. trials of the past year contributing to swell the sum to a very marked degree. Comparing the expenses of this court for the years 1860 and 1875, the startling discovery is made that during the last ten years the annual expenditures have much more than trebled in amount. The expenses for 1866, including "bystaves' pay, were $18,915-10-100. Adding the pay of short-hand reporters and tipstaves to the amount reported for 1875 ($67,099 74-100) the, total is $67,099 74-100, the increase of the same during the period noted of $43,834 02 100. Nor has this increase resulted from extraordinary causes for a single year, but it has been gradual and constant.

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The increase of expenses in these courts results from an increased and constantly increasing amount of litigation.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The increase in this department resulted from the payment to the State, under the decision of the Supreme Court, the State tax on writs, collected in the former years. These taxes have not all yet been paid, there being a balance yet due the State of nearly $3,000. This payment swelled the aggregate expenditures for the year sufficient to increase them beyond those of 1874.

BRIDGES.

The increase noted under this head resulted mostly in repairing the damages from the floods of 1874. The new structures in many instances were of iron instances that would warrant have been built of iron, which are considered to be more durable and economical in the end than the old style of wooden structures.

PENNSYLVANIA REFORM SCHOOL.

This institution has been increasing its cost to this county very materially for the past two years—resulting from the amount required to pay interest on temporary loans rendered necessary through the neglect of the State Legislature to appropriate the customary amounts for institutions of this kind. Also the Board of Managers have not, reported the earnings of the inmates as formerly, but have set them aside for stocking the new farm at Morganza. It is to be hoped that when the removal to the new building and farm at Morganza, which is contemplated, takes place, the expenses of this school will be very greatly reduced.

CONTINGENT FUND.

The increase of items in this appropriation is for sundry purposes, as its name would indicate. Copyist's expenses for copying dockets of Prothonotary, Register of Wills and Clerk of Orphans' Court being the principal items.

It is a remarkable fact that the entire deficiency existing in the estimated receipts is from taxes, the receipts outside of taxes having been fully up to and exceeding the estimates. This deficiency cannot justly be charged to the high county rate of taxation, for it has been steadily reduced since 1871, and is not now over sixty per cent. of what it was then. Neither can it be ascribed to hard times altogether, but I estimate the most likely reasen is that the rate in the rural districts has become so low, that unless a very considerable amount of property is owned by the taxpayer it does not justify him in coming to the Treasurer's office to make payment, rather preferring to await the coming of the collector and percentage.

Although there has been a falling off in receipts there does not exist any actual deficiency in the county funds, but only a reduced surplus, which will carry over into the coming year's operations. Every effort will be made to curtail expenses, and I believe no increase of taxation need be feared.

THE NATION TRUST COMPANY.

In 1873, the banking firm known as the Nation Trust Company was established with a deposit due the county of $155,527 67. This company was a legal depository for county funds, selected under direction of act of Assembly, and duly approved by the proper authorities. Until this catastrophe occurred, the credit of this company was undoubted, and, indeed, until a long time after the failure it was believed that all its liabilities would be promptly liquidated. But a long course of untoward events has finally demonstrated that the resources of the stockholders would be scarcely sufficient to meet their liabilities. The county authorities have carefully abstained from all compromises which would place the county in a different position from private creditors. During 1875 the county has received on account of the Nation due her $26,978 83, leaving a balance of the principal sum unpaid due of $128,548 84. The County Commissioners, in November, 1875, agreed to a compromise with the bankrupt's assignees and creditors of the company, and, along with other creditors, accepted a proposition to have interest added to the accounts up to June 15, 1875, from which date the latter to pay one-fourth of the sum then due each year, namely, on the 15th of June, 1876, '77, '78 and '79, without interest. The above proposition was by them accompanied with ample security to the county for its performance, which arrangement has not been completed at this date.

PITTSBURGH AND CONNELLSVILLE RAILROAD BONDS.

During the month of November, 1875, the Sinking Fund Commission of the county sold to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company the secured mortgage bonds of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company, belonging to the county and amounting to $269,686 67, at sixty-five per cents. In addition to the principal sum for the payment of interest accrued, and in default on the whole sum up to July 1, 1875. In consideration of the peril in which this whole claim was placed the settlement was a most fortunate one to the county, but again, it must be remembered, that every dollar which these bonds represented was justly due the county, and the difference from the face of the claim and the amount received is a dead loss to taxpayers, and to say the least is a serious reflection upon the United States Courts upon patent infringement cases.

THE BOND OF FRIENDSHIP.

The Document Filed in the Register's Office.

The order of the Supreme Court in the Bond of Friendship case, which has been fully stated in these columns, directing the Prothonotary of this District to hold the record for two weeks, has also been mentioned. The two weeks expired last Saturday, and the parties interested were prompt in having the litigated paper registered as a will in the proper office. Shortly after this compliance with the law, Register Woods, Prothonotary of the Supreme Court, received a dispatch from the Prothonotary of that Court in the Eastern District directing him to "hold the record until further order of the Court." The will having by this time been registered it was considered too late on the part of the Supreme Court to intervene, so the document is registered as a will and Mr. Clark gets the $75,000.

Mr. Hampton, counsel for the other side, thinks the case is not yet ended.

"Know Thy Opportunity."

The grim monster, Death, was stealthily approaching. I could almost feel his hot, fiery breath upon my forehead. My faithful wife, dear Peggy, had ceased to do aught for me. Only now and then would Morpheus befriend me, but on this auspicious day, he had deigned to moisten my eyelids with heavenly ambrosia, and I slept. As I slept, behold, I had a dream! I thought that I was roaming upon foreign soil whither my physician had sent me to recover my health. I was in a great bazaar, composed of the grand marts of the world. In one of my strolls I chanced to meet a man who had in his hand a handsomely-bound volume, entitled "The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser," and who said that he was an agent for the sale of the book. The title was such a novel one that I was impelled to give the work a cursory glance. As I hastily glanced over its pages, I observed that it contained treatises not commonly found in medical works. But I had long since given up having Annual Insurances, and I determined that I would have *nothing* to do with it. A voice within me, like a faithful mentor, whispered, "*Know thy opportunity in time*," and "*Save thy salvation!*" I began reasoning with myself. Although doubtful and distrustful, yet I put forth my hand to take the book, and, lo! the agent was gone! I was miserable. In my agony I awoke. Great drops of prespiration were upon my brow. By my bedside was a friend who had called during my slumber to see me. And my friend, "I have brought with me a book, just published, which I thought might interest you." One glance at the work, and I was assured that it was "The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser," by Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y. Surely *this* was the desirable book which I had seen in my dreams. My friend loaned me the work, and every day as my strength permitted, I perused its pages. Although it contained very interesting treatises on Biology, Cerebral Physiology, Human Temperaments, Nursing of the sick, etc., yet, being an invalid, I was most interested in the rules, regulations and remedies. I believed that I had a liver affection, and yet more than one medical attendant had pronounced my disease consumption, and think I would fall with the autumn leaves. In that book I found my symptoms perfectly portrayed. I was then confident that I had not deceived myself. I reasoned thus: "Any one who can so truthfully depict my feelings, and apparently understands my constitutional tenencies, must know *just what* my physical system demands. I will trust my case with Dr. Pierce. I will take his Golden Medical Discovery as recommended for my disease." The result is, that after having perseveringly followed his prescribed treatment, I once again enjoy the blessings of health. Therefore, I would say to the afflicted, "Know thy opportunity," and take Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. MWF&C

THE COUNTY FINANCES.

Abstract of Controller's Report for 1875—Exhibit of Receipts and Expenditures, &c. &c

County Controller Warner submitted his annual report for 1875, last Saturday, as follows:

OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER
OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY,
PITTSBURGH, PA., January 1, 1876.

To the Honorable Judges of the Court of Common Pleas No. 1, of Allegheny County

GENTLEMEN: Herewith I submit the annual statement of the fiscal affairs of Allegheny county, for 1875:

I regret to say that the statement is not so favorable as those of late years. The gross expenditures of the county, when compared with those of 1874, show an increase of $4,672 18, while the gross receipts show a decrease of $65,908 96. This decline in the revenue has no connection with the receipts from liquor licenses, as the receipts from that source belong to another fund, and will be referred to in the proper place, next.

The most notable increase in the expenditures has occurred in the following departments: In fees and salaries to the amount of $2,279 66; in election expenses, $3,152 13; in printing and stationery, $6,916 92; in Court of Quarter Sessions, $7,797 99; in Courts of Common Pleas Nos. 1 and 2, $6381 91; in Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, $16,388 59; in bridges, $1,183 98; in Pennsylvania Reform School, $2,213 40; in Contingent Fund, $2,843 90.

On the side of decreased expenditures, the items meriting special notice are: In the department of interest to the amount of $2,606 45; in the Coroner's office, $1,211 51; in Western Penitentiary, $9,595 59, or a reduction in a single year of 30 per cent. more than one-half of the expense to the county, resulting from the introduction of the congregational system of labor into that institution; in Commissioners' office, $650 07; in assessment of Taxes, $21,416 72; in Court House, $4,204 91. The increased expenditures noted are explained as follows: In

FEES AND SALARIES.

The amount of $1,208 32 resulted from the payment of fractional parts of salaries in 1875, which were due for 1874, while all, or nearly all, the salaries for 1875 were paid in full to date. There has been no increase of salary to the chief of any county office during the past year. After deducting the foregoing amount, the balance of the increase in this department is attributable to the increase of number, pay and expenses of clerks and deputies in many offices: For the Sheriff's office, the increase for this account amounted to $4,299 21, and for the Prothonotary's office to $2,106. These circumstances were principally caused by the great increase of business in those offices during the past year. It must be borne in mind that while these offices were so largely increased, the revenue derived from them by the county was correspondingly increased. The revenue from fees in the Sheriff's office during 1875 was greater in 1875 than in 1874; and in the Prothonotary's office, $521 49 greater in 1875 than in 1874. There was an increase in the pay roll of tipstaves for the Court of Common Pleas No. 2, to the amount of $552 71; for Court of Quarter Sessions, $514 33. The establishment of the Orphans' Court during the past year, for the portion of the year covering its existence, added to the expenditures of this department $3,273 33 for salary, pay, and $656 80 for pay of short-hand reporters. These, with the exception of some inconsiderable amounts, embrace all the items of increase in this schedule. The following officers reduced their expenditures during the year on account of salaries: Clerk of Orphans' Court, $1,068 11; Recorder, $500 55; Engineer, $140; County Commissioners, $844 12; County Treasurer, $163 35; County Controller, $145. These form the principal items of reduced expenditures.

ELECTION EXPENSES.

The increased expenditure from this department was caused by the increased number of elections presided over. While this expense bids fair to grow for some time to come, it is questionable whether in the more complete safeguards of the ballot under the provisions of the new Constitution the money is not well spent, as the present system most effectually prevents any tampering with the general results.

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The increase in this department was principally caused by the number of advertisements of Sheriff's sales, which was occasioned by the large collections of the Sheriff on this account.

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FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, February 2, 1876.

The loan markets of Pittsburgh continues easy, with an abundant supply of funds for those who can furnish proper security, while the financial situation at large is unchanged.

The most discouraging feature is the inability of Congress to adopt some settled policy in regard to the currency question, or to let the matter entirely alone.

It is self-evident that we have more money now than can be profitably employed, and have had since the collapse of 1873, yet it does not follow from this that we would need no more currency than we have now, should business revive to the proportions of the summer of 1873.

—The demand for more "money" naturally comes from the new portions of the country where values are fluctuating and unsettled, and where there is no great accumulation of capital. The low price of their products is attributed to a want of money, when in truth it arises from the low prices in the foreign markets that govern the grain markets of the world, and prices are low there, because for many months the supply has been greater than the demand.

—We note that two suits have been instituted in the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, against the First National Bank of Mount Pleasant. The first reflection that suggests itself on reading this announcement is that the character of the officers of the bank in question is such as to preclude the supposition of unfair or oppressive dealing. Then all thoughtful men must conclude that any person who would, in violation of his contract, bring such an action, must have given up all thought of ever attempting to do business where he brings such action, for by so doing he loses his standing as a man of honor and integrity.

A learned judge has said the rule of law should be that no one who has borrowed money from a bank, after he has received the benefit of the contract, should be permitted to repudiate the obligation it imposes on him, on the ground that the bank in making the loan exceeded its powers, or acted otherwise improperly or illegally.

Another self-evident truth should be borne in mind; that where a law is all but universally disregarded by the business community, as constituted of honest, honorable and Christian men, that such a law should find no place on our statute books. The usury law is universally disregarded by borrowers and lenders, and should be repealed entirely.

So many cases of this kind are arising of late that we hope to see a united effort made by the banks of the State to get a decision from the court of last resort, testing the soundness of the rulings of the Pennsylvania courts on the subject.

—A bill has been introduced into the Legislature to amend the act of March 31, 1870, in relation to bank taxation. By that act banks can either pay 0.3 on the assessed value of their stock for State purposes, which leaves them subject to taxation for county, school and municipal purposes, or they can pay one per cent. tax on the par value of their shares, which will exempt them from all taxation under the laws of the Commonwealth. The latter tax is the one mentioned to one-half of one per cent. As the law is at present, the banks in most cases elect to pay three mills on the assessed value of their shares for State purposes, and run the risk of having other taxes assessed for local purposes, rather than pay the one per cent. and escape the risk. Should the new law pass, the banks would doubtless elect to pay the one-half per cent., thus increasing the revenue now received from this source, sixty-six per cent. of the tax realized.

—A useful table, prepared for the *Financial and Commercial Chronicle*, gives the total amount of suspended railway bonds in America, since the panic, at $283,997,995, of which $82,967,663 is held in the United States and $201,030,332 in Europe. Of the latter, 51½ is the complaints by the foreign bondholders, it appears that their suspended holdings are less than half as much as those of the domestic creditors. We have here an additional proof of what we have already so frequently demonstrated, that our railway system, falsely attributed to foreign capitalists, was mainly achieved by domestic means. The whole amount of the bonded debt is given in Poor's Railway Manual at $2,000,000,000, so that the amount of suspended bonds held abroad is but a small fraction of his total indebtedness.

Of the whole $283,997,668 of suspended debt, the amount of interest in default is $11,398,256, the amount in process of settlement with out litigation, $51,393,500; amount having foreclosures or other proceedings pending, $24,000,000 amount foreclosed or reorganized, $150,573,000. It is noteworthy that the panic of 1873 has produced the alarm that culminated in the great crash. But, however true it may be that the principal cause of the defaults and put a stop to the increase of debt and the building of railways, the suspended debt is much greater than those of 1857, but were natural and unavoidable. But those of 1873, though far more rich in all that was desirable in such effect because a reaction had been looked for, and had not come when the crash came, and the storm has spent its force, as the defaults in 1876 only amount to $4,484,000. But still the better system is not yet in the ground: the many lines have been built where they were not wanted, and the work of the future is not saving, like general recuperation can take place.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

February 2, 1876.	10:30	11:30	12:30	2:30	3:00
	M.	M.	M.	P. M.	P. M.
Gold	113¼	113¼	113	113	113
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup	122½				122½
U. S. 5's, 1881					
U. S. 5's, 1874, registered					
U. S. 5's, 1874, coupon					
U. S. 6's, 1867, registered					
U. S. 6's, 1867, coupon					
U. S. 6's, 1868, registered					
U. S. 6's, 1868, coupon					
Currency 6's	124½				124½
Western Union Tel	78	78	78	78	78
Quicksilver	37	37	37	37	37
Quicksilver preferred	74	74	74	74	74
Panama					
Adams Express					
American Express					
United States Express					
Wells-Fargo Express					
New York Central	112				112
Erie	17				17
Michigan Central	97				97
Michigan Southern	94½				94½
Illinois Central	96				96
Cleve., Col. & Cincinnati	41				41
Cleve. & Pittsburgh	94½				94½
Pittsburgh & Western	41				41
Do preferred	73½	73½	73½	73½	73½
Rock Island	108½				108½
St. Paul	41½				41½
Do preferred	75½				75½
Northwestern	41½				41½
Do preferred	90½				90½
Fort Wayne	100				100
Ohio & Mississippi	24				24
Union Pacific	70				69½
Chicago & Alton	97				97
Hannibal & St. Jos	22				21
Do preferred	27				6
Atlantic & Pacific	19½				19½
Missouri Pacific	14½				14½
Missouri 6's	102¼				102¼

—The following is the report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
Pennsylvania Central			56
Reading			53
United Co.'s of N. J.	126½		
Catawissa			15¼
Lehigh Valley			64
Elmira common			16½
Central Transportation			
P., C., & St. L. m. b.	78½		79¾

(By Associated Press.)

Gold stationary at 113.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, February 2.—Money closed at 3@6 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 5½@6 per cent. Customs receipts $161,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $1,000,000. Clearings $23,000,000. Sterling quiet at 486@489½.

GOLD.

Gold advanced to 113¼ and closed at 113. Carrying rates 2 to 4 per cent.

GOVERNMENT BONDS.

Government bonds strong. Railroad bonds firm. State securities steady. Stocks opened weak and lower, and in the last hour were steady to strong, the closing prices having, however, been nearer to lowest than highest figures, with the exception of St. Paul and Fort Wayne, which closed at the highest prices of the day. Transactions 148,000 shares, of which 30,000 were Pacific Mail, 27,000 Western Union, 9,000 Northwestern, 10,000 St. Paul, 5,000 Erie, 6,000 St. Joseph, 12,000 Lake Shore and 10,000 Illinois Central. The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.			
W. U. Telegraph	78	Toledo & Wabash	57½
Pacific Mail	36½	Do preferred	75½
Adams Express	105	Fort Wayne	100
Wells Fargo Ex	85	Terre Haute	22
American Ex	57½	Do preferred	22
U. S. Express	53	Chicago & Alton	104
New York Central	113¼	Marip preferred	109
Erie	17½	Ohio & Mississippi	23½
Do preferred	35	Burling'n & Quincy	105¾
Harlem	135	Hannibal & St. Jos	18¼
Do preferred	136	Delaware & Lack	103½
Mich. Central	97	Atlantic & Pac	20¾
Lake Shore	67	Union Pac. stock	69¾
Illinois Central	97½	Con. Pac. bonds	105½
Clev. & Pitts	95	Union Pac. bonds	103¾
Northwestern	41¼	Do land grants	103¾
Do preferred	82¾	Sinking funds	104
N. J. Central	108¾	Do preferred	105¾
Kock Island	108¾	Panama	130
St. Paul	41¼	Missouri Pacific	14
Do preferred	75¾		

GOVERNMENTS.			
U. S. coupons, 1881	122¾	10-40's registered	113¾
5-20's, 1865	118	10-40's coupons	119¼
5-20's, 1865, new	119¾	7-30's, 1st series	109¾
5-20's, 1867	122¾	Currency 6's	124¾
5-20's, 1868	122¾		

STATE BONDS.			
Tennessee, old	48	Virginia, old	38
Tennessee, new	46¾	Virginia 6's	102¾
Virginia, new	37		

LONDON, February 2, 5 p. m.—The rate for money at the Stock Exchange on Government securities is 3¾ per cent. Consols 94 1-16@94 1-8. United States bonds—5-20's, 1865, 105¾; do 1867, 106¾; 10-40's, 108; new 5's 103¾. Railroad securities—New York Central 102; Erie 15¾; do preferred 32.

PARIS, February 2.—Rentes 68 francs 25 centimes.

FRANKFORT, February 2.—United States bonds—New 5's 104¾.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, }
WEDNESDAY, February 2, 1876. }

Trade in a general way could not be called active. For certain articles there were a fair demand whilst for others the reverse was the situation. An early improvement is predicted. When it comes our readers shall be fully advised. Bacon is held firmly with a steady demand, with a fair stock on hand and moderate receipts. Flour—The market was decidedly firm, particularly for favorite brands, the scarcity of choice wheat, no doubt, being the cause. Grain—The receipts show a decided falling off; so far, however, no change has been established in prices. There has been a material change in the weather. The first day of February was pleasant and spring-like, but the second day was quite the reverse. It was the real winter article without adulteration. At this writing our rivers are in good navigable condition, but unless we have something milder than the present we may as well prepare for a suspension of navigation. Below will be found a carefully corrected price list:

The receipts of the leading articles or produce received during the past twenty-four hours were as follows:

Flour, bbls.....1,460 Cheese, lbs.....135
Corn, bus.....900 Wheat bus.....200
Barley, bus.....2,700 Oats, bus.....3,000
Butter, pkgs.....74 Bacon, pcs.....3,678
Bacon, tcs.....25 Potatoes, bus.....4
Hay, tons.....40

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce during the past two weeks.

Articles.	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	8,966	6,383	15,349
Apples, bbls	10	233	243
Cheese, bxs	313	466	779
Corn, bus	72,184	9,798	21,982
Wheat, bus	14,484	1,560	7,044
Barley, bus	11,961	16,927	28,888
Rye, bus	1,525	1,625	3,150
Oats, bus	16,569	12,877	29,176
Butter, pkgs	450	523	982
Bacon, lbs	8,000	11,000	19,000
Bacon, tcs	607	195	802
Potatoes, bus	7,048	3,510	10,551
Hay, tons	5,078	1,718	6,796

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

The market could not be called an active one, although, taken as a whole, a fair business was transacted. An improvement is predicted in the early future. Corn—The receipts, as compared with last week, allow a decline of 2@3c per bushel. Wheat—The receipts continue light, 3,895 bushels. The decline in oats were 4,022 bushels. The decline in rye was only 81 bushels. Barley shows a decline of 19,377 bushels. The week's increase in barley receipts were 4,966 bushels. In regard to values we have no material alteration to note, the ground has been still purchasing sparingly, merely for present wants. We quote delivered in Pittsburgh as follows: Ear corn at $6 50@6 75 per ton; shelled yellow, old shelled in elevator 60@62c per bushel; new corn, 55@57c; oats, about former quotations. We quote mixed Pennsylvania and Ohio 39@40c; white do at 42@ 43c; No. 1 timothy hay—New, $16@17; old, scarce at much doing; Canada is held at $8 50@9 per bushel; choice spring at 1 62@1 65; common to prime at 1 00@1 10; fall at 1 00@1 15; low grades nominal at 90c@1 00. Rye quiet with a sale at 85c, held at 90@95c per bushel. Jobbing sales were made at the usual advance.

FLOUR—The firmness we noted in our last has been maintained; holders are looking for an advance. The falling off in the receipts as compared with last week, allow a decline of 2,230 barrels. We quote nominally $5 75@6 00 for No. 3; $6 00@6 50 for No. 2; $6 75@7 00 for No. 1; $7 00@7 25 for XX; $7 50@8 00 for XXX; $8 00@8 50 for family flour; $9 00@9 25 for patents. Rye flour nominal at $5 50@5 75 per barrel.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Is held at $2 50@2 75 per 100 pounds; new red winter wheat flour is active at $6 00@6 25; Graham flour $5 75@6 25; superfine $4 50@5 00; new red winter wheat flour in dozen packages: cornmeal 90c per bushel; cracked wheat $3 00@3 25 per 100 pounds; feed $1 25 @1 30 per bushel. Buckwheat flour 2½@3c per lb.

HAY—The market exhibited more firmness, with a fair inquiry. The receipts exceeds the previous one 2,010 bales. The change in the market is largely one in quotations. Upland prairie $13 00@14 00 per ton; timothy $15 00@16 00 as per quality and condition. Mixed clover $12 00@13 00. Straw $11 per ton.

MILL FEED—The demand being moderate the supply was equal to the occasion. We note sales of bran at $14 00@15 00 per ton; shorts and middlings $16 00@17 00; chop feed $20 00@22 00 per ton. Oil meal $40 00@43 00 per ton.

Provisions.

As we noted in our last, the market showed more firmness and holders were not inclined to make concessions to effect sales. We now show a falling off of pieces 1,309, of tierces 412. From this it will be perceived that stocks are being reduced. The current rates are:

Hams, Extra Sugar Cured.....16½
Hams, Sugar Cured.....14½
Hams, Canvassed.....15
Shoulders, Extra Sugar Cured.....10½
Shoulders, Sugar Cured.....10½
Breakfast Bacon, Extra Sugar Cured.....13½
Breakfast Bacon, Sugar Cured.....12½
Dried Beef, Extra Sugar Cured.....13
Dried Beef, Sugar Cured.....12
Beef Tongues, Extra Sugar Cured.....16
Beef Tongues, Sugar Cured.....14
Bacon Shoulders.....9½
Rosin Clear Rib Sides.....9½
Rosin Clear Rib Sides.....9¾
Sides.....13½
Mess Pork, by bbl.....
Family Pork.....
Pork, about 25 pieces in bbl.....
Pork, about 21 pieces in bbl.....21 00
Short Cut Mess Pork, 18 pieces in bbl.....
Short Cut Mess Pork, 21 pieces in bbl.....21 00
Lard, Prime Leaf in tcs.....13½
Lard, Prime Leaf in bbls.....13½
Lard, Prime Leaf in kegs.....14
Lard, Prime Leaf in 3 lb pails.....14½
Lard, Prime Leaf in 5 lb pails.....14
Lard, Refined in tcs.....12½
Lard, Refined in 3 lb pails.....13½
Lard, Refined in 5 lb pails.....13
Lard, Refined in 10 lb pails.....13
Ham Sausage.....9
Bologna.....9
Lard Oil, Extra.....
Winter Strained.....
Tallow.....@10
Lard Oil, Min.....
Extra Winter Strained.....
Carbon Oil, Standard White.....
Lard, White.....
Cheese, Prime.....
Cheese, Fine.....
Goshen.....
Pigs' Feet, ½ bbls.....
Pigs' Feet, ¼ bbls.....
Pigs' Feet, 1 bbl.....
Pigs' Feet, ½ bbl.....

The market closed weak and lower at the close. Prices are somewhat easier. We quote nominally 7¾@8c per lb.

LIVERPOOL.—The market was devoid of animation. The prospects is, however, for an early revival of trade in provisions. We quote nominally per quintal 37s@40 per bushel; clover $5 50@6 25.

TALLOW—The market was weak with a decline in prices. We quote country at 8@8½c; city rendered 8½@9c.

DRIED FRUITS—We have no change to note. Prices are steady. We quote sales in a regular way at 5c for good washed.

GREEN FRU

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1876.

THE foreign exports of Boston, last week, amounted in value to $762,233.

THE foreign exports of Philadelphia last week amounted in value to $432,714.

MASSACHUSETTS thinks that the chief cause of pauperism in that State is immigration, and hence she proposes to pass laws prohibiting the immigration from other States and foreign countries, of persons who are liable to become public dependants or inmates of the prisons. The manner in which she proposes to ascertain this liability is not stated.

AN OLD weather couplet, in reference to January, runs thus:

A sad barren year the farmer foresees,
Whose orchards this month show budding trees.

Throughout the country apprehensions are expressed that the fruit crop will be badly injured from early budding, caused by the prolonged mild weather and warm sunshine of the present month.

STATE SENATOR MURPHY, of Davenport, Iowa, a Democrat and a Catholic, has been publicly denounced by the Catholic laity of that city for introducing into the Legislature a proposed amendment to the Constitution prohibiting sectarian appropriations. The indignation meeting was held at the church at which the Senator is in the habit of worshipping—which indicates that it had a priestly origin.

WE SUGGEST that if SCANNELL and LANDIS, and other lunatics with shooting propensities, are to be permitted to shoot whoever they please and go free on account of their insanity, they should be confined in their operations to such places as the Hall of the House of Representatives at Washington. There are many Democratic heads there that do not contain brains enough to be injured by a bullet.

THE English manufacturers are getting terribly alarmed by the steadily decreasing demand for their goods in this country, and REVERDY JOHNSON, whom they have lately been dining and wining to his bibulous heart's content, evidently thinks that nothing but the adoption of free trade by the United States will save them. At all events he has just announced himself a convert to their theory. He is very old.

THE cumulative voting, which enables a minority to steal a corporation in Pennsylvania, is nothing to the same kind of voting which enables the minority in Mississippi to steal a State. They have reduced the matter to a science, down there, and when any one of the majority quietly claims that he has some right to be heard, they shoot him and lay him out of the way. The 30,000 Democratic votes in that State have been cumulated into 120,000 by judicious counting and the aid of powder and ball.

THE foreign commerce of New York last week was: Merchandise imports, $5,-228,431; produce exports, $5,019,346; and specie exports, $436,137. The total imports since the first of January this year were $27,518,546, against $25,838,137 for the corresponding period last year, and $25,644,-597 in 1874. The total exports of produce during the same period were $19,842,541, against $16,744,402 for the corresponding period in 1875, and $20,781,489 in 1874, and the total exports of specie were $1,976,090, against $9,024,323 last year, and $2,347,578 the year before.

THE *Financial Chronicle* states authoritatively that the obligations of the Government on account of the called bonds have been so adjusted that they will be met by ample resources already provided and from funds chiefly from the Syndicate. This is gratifying. The later calls for bonds were heavy. To-day a large amount matures, and a fortnight later a still larger sum. Altogether, on the 1st and the 15th of this month, the called bonds which fall due amount to $27,785,350. The previous calls were on the 1st of January and on the 1st and 17th of December.

THERE had been a general impression that the Centennial appropriation measure had great strength in the South, and the few leading Southern men who advocated it maintained that the vote of the South upon the bill would be an index of the desire of that section of the country for reconciliation. Results, however, proved the contrary. The Southern Democrats voted almost solid against the bill. There was but thirty-four affirmative votes from the South, and of these twelve were Republican. Nearly all the Democratic votes from the following States were cast against the bill: North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Georgia, Arkansas, Alabama, Virginia, West Virginia, Texas and Mississippi.

THE Chief of the Bureau of Statistics has just published a statement showing the amount of British exports to this country for the years 1874 and 1875, from which appears that our imports last year fell off very considerably from those of the year before. A few more years of adequate protection to our home industries, and the galling yoke of dependence on British manufactures, by which we have so long been cursed, will be entirely broken. In nearly all manufactured goods there was a perceptible decrease. In 1874 we imported £20,058 worth of cast or unwrought iron manufacturers; last year only £7,818 came to us. In 1874 we imported £13,562 worth of unwrought steel; in 1875 only £10,681. In linens and woolen goods there was also a great decline.

THE advice contained in the will of DAVID GROW, the lately deceased wealthy Boston merchant, is as healthy as a clear north wind. He bequeathed some very liberal sums to charities, and then, leaving a fortune to each of his heirs, requested them to engage in some legitimate business and not to live on the interest of their money. "This course," he says "is not only an honorable one, but almost always the most satisfactory in the long run." The testament closed by deprecating the investment of funds in stocks, declaring that in the first place it is likely to end, as all other species of gambling, in failure, and, in the second place, that it is injurious and demoralizing. Better or sounder business doctrines have never been inculcated.

THE New York *Times*, in referring to certain able articles furnished to that paper against the President's attempt to subject church property to taxation, admits that the President's figures, as to the present and prospective value of church property, are all wrong. The President proposes to continue the exemption of burial grounds and church edifices; and when these are taken out of the account there is but little left for taxation. The *Times* says that, "on the whole, it seems probable that the President, misled as to the amount of church property, and perhaps as to the exact nature of the actual exemption enjoyed, has been betrayed into an anxiety on this subject for which there is no pressing occasion." And, it might have added, from which no political advantage is likely to flow.

THE prospects for our foreign trade, this year, point to a considerable improvement over 1875. It is estimated that our exports will embrace more than 3,000,000 bales of cotton; not less than 50,000,000 bushels of wheat, besides a large quantity of corn; 300,000,000 pounds of cured meats, with increased quantities of petroleum, tobacco, naval stores, etc. But the most marked increase in our exports will probably be of domestic manufactures. Their reduced cost, the result of cheaper labor and cheaper raw materials, as well as their intrinsic value, will be likely to commend them to a much wider array of customers. Our exports of domestic cotton fabrics last year were nearly twice as large as in 1874; and although the increase was the effect in part of some abnormal circumstances, the goods were transmitted to markets that were hardly expected to buy of us. A further increase is looked for in the East Indies and South American trade. A great deal has also been accomplished during the past two years in the way of settling up and clearing the field for new operations; and the improved character of the bank clearance statements and reports of railroads show that the fruits of this toilsome but necessary and wholesome process are at length beginning to appear.

TEN or twelve years ago Japan was her mentality sealed against Christianity and Christian education; to-day, with in certain treaty limits, both are as free as in the Keystone State, and beyond those limits the Government is tolerant, so far as is safe, with more than thirty millions of subjects who are groping in the accumulated darkness and prejudices of more than a thousand years. For a nation stepping in a day from such a past, into the family of the foremost nations on the globe, her record for the past few years is among the wonders of the age. Her statesmen have been extraordinarily quick to comprehend and apply the republican idea of the equality of woman. The Empress, ignoring her past seclusion, has come forward with her purse and heart to aid her country women, and her interest in their education may be seen in the words she lately uttered, when a normal school for the education of girls was formally opened in the capital. She said:

"Upon hearing last year that this school was about to be established in order to foster the growth of education for girls, I was unable to contain my joy. Its construction has now been completed and the ceremony of its opening has been performed. My earnest desire is that this school may henceforth be prosperous, and that I may eventually see the beautiful fruit of female education appear in profusion throughout the whole of the land."

THE NO-POLICY OF THE DEMOCRATS.

The caucus of Democratic Senators at Washington, recently held, acted upon the principle that a Democratic Senator cannot open his mouth without putting his foot in it. The caucus resolved not to permit any Democratic speeches to be made in the Senate upon MORTON'S Mississippi resolutions, and it developed a strong inclination to shut off debate, also, on the States rights resolutions heretofore offered by MORTON and MCDONALD. This inclination was partially balked by the desire of BAYARD and THURMAN, rival candidates for the Democratic Presidential nomination, to make speeches for Buncombe upon those resolutions. It is to be hoped the caucus will thus be overreached. BAYARD and THURMAN will be sure to cut their own throats by the operation, and the rest of the Democratic Senators would probably be glad to witness the operation if it could be confined to these Presidential aspirants; but as there is danger they will also cut the throat of the party, it may become necessary for the party to shut them off.

The action of this caucus is proof of what we have often before asserted, that the party has no settled creed of policy, and is a mere aggregation of hostile factions bound together solely by the cohesive force of public plunder. The Democratic members of the House have already put the party in peril by their haste to air their differences with each other; and it is now found necessary to apply the gag to the mouths of Democratic Senators to keep them from declaring sentiments that will arouse the fears of the people. The reason for the action of the caucus referred to is explained by a Democratic Senator, who says his colleagues have determined "not to have any of the foolishness in the Senate that has been seen in the House;" but why, except upon the theory that the party is not and cannot be a unit upon any leading national question, should a discussion of national questions by Democratic members be regarded as "foolishness?" The "foolishness" consists solely in the fact that liberty of debate cannot be alloyed to the Democratic members without involving them in angry conflicts with each other.

It has been found, for instance, that while Mr. HOPKINS of our Twenty-second district, thinks it unconstitutional; TUCKER, of Virginia, insists that we are a nation, but not a mere league or aggregation of States, and that the right of secession remains intact, while HOLMAN, of Indiana, is alike positive in scouting at States Rights and a disjointed government; FERNANDO WOOD persists in setting up hard money as the basis of Democratic doctrine, whilst LANDERS, and BECK, and PENDLETON regard hard money with detestation and cry out for the greenback as the only legal tender; RANDALL is for a high tariff, and Sunset COX is for free trade; and while LAMAR contends for the power of the General Government to build railroads, dig canals, and throw up levies along the Mississippi, THURMAN and BAYARD deny to it any such authority. There is not, in fact, a single national issue on which the party is united, and the longer indiscriminate debate is allowed to go on the more apparent this discordance will grow.

The MORTON resolutions, which the Democrats of the Senate are so reluctant to discuss, assert the broad Republican principle that the United States are a nation, and that the National Government is possessed of certain attributes of sovereignty. Mr. MCDONALD proposes to amend these resolutions by others, setting forth the sovereignty of the States, and denying to the General Government the attribute of nationality. These resolutions have got to be met, and the Democratic Senators have got to face them; but they fear debate, because it will expose their own divisions and distractions. Debate is sure to lead some Southern Senator into talk as wild as that of HILL and TUCKER in the House, and to create a prejudice against the party in the North. What the prudent Senators want is to go along quietly, saying nothing and doing nothing, and wind up the session without making any record against themselves. The spirit indeed is willing with them, but the flesh is weak; and the end will be that the Democratic tongue will wag, in spite of all precautions to the contrary, and the country will have the chance to learn what Democracy really is from its own legitimate development. All the efforts made to hide the cloven foot will prove to be failures of the most mortifying kind.

THE Democratic party is laboring under a mountainous accumulation of woes. DICK SCHELL, the Chairman of the National Democratic Committee, was the other day summoned from New York to Washington in hot haste, to confer with the leaders regarding a cure for the unfortunate errors into which the House majority have wandered. He is very much exercised over the petrifying ignorance and lack of unity and discipline that obtain in the party. And here is the Baltimore *Sun*, a leading organ of the Democracy, bewailing that—

"While the Democrats in the House are making such a tremendous ado about the great reductions which they propose to make in all branches of the public service, they are rendering themselves extremely vulnerable in another direction. Since the beginning of the session scores of bills have been introduced by the Democratic members covering all conceivable projects for taking money from the Treasury. Most of all of these bills are for claims growing out of the war, and in the aggregate they foot up more millions than ever the most enthusiastic Democratic reformer had proposed to take off the present total of public expenditures. They furnish just the material which the radical press and the radical speakers ardently desire to hold up before the people of the North and the West during the coming Presidential campaign. Already the work of collating these bills, setting forth their object, with the total amount called for by them, has been commenced and scattered broadcast over the country as a Republican campaign document. It would be well for a halt to be called in this matter."

That is to say, it is thought inadvisable, for the present, to let the country know what Democracy really is. The true design of the party is to be bottled up till a more convenient season. The shift, however, astute as it may be thought, will not avail. The people see the intent of the artist in the bottling-up so clearly that they need no further argument in the premises.

CALIFORNIA is a wonderful State, whether considered with reference to her mineral, agricultural or horticultural resources and capabilities. We find, in a San Francisco *Commercial Herald* of recent date, an elaborate review of the trade of California, last year, showing that the product of wheat during that period was 20,000,000 centals; wheat and flour exports, 9,000,000 centals; gold and silver yield, $90,000,000; gold and silver exports in nineteen years, $749,000,000; wheat and flour exports in nineteen years, 72,650,000 centals; coinage of San Francisco mint in 1875, $32,069,000; coinage of mint since 1854, $409,398,000; merchandise exports by sea last year, $30,555,000; mining stock sales at San Francisco Board, $220,225,000; lumber product, 362,000,000 feet; domestic coals received, 2,788,000 tons; wool clip, 43,500,000 pounds; product of wine, 8,000,-000 gallons; tonnage movement of Central Pacific Railroad, 1,905,751,063 pounds, and of Southern Pacific Railroad, 451,854,741 pounds; quicksilver product of California for the year, 54,000 flasks; savings banks deposits of the State, $72,500,000; San Francisco real estate sales, $26,000,000; corporation dividends disbursed during the year, $28,000,000; increase immigration, 64,000; banking capital of the State, $150,000,000, etc. It also appears that California will soon, with her improved methods of tobacco growing and labor saving apparatus for curing, be able to produce tobacco at a price so low and of such a quality as practically to defy competition in any market in the world.

There are twelve hundred Granges in Ohio.

Each Child Shall Have His School.

Old Europe groans with palaces,
Has lords enough, and more;
We plant and build by foaming seas
A city of the poor;
For day by day could Boston lay
Their honest laborer overpay.

The noble craftsman we promote,
Disown the knave and fool;
Each honest man shall have his vote,
Each child shall have his school.
For what avail the plow or sail,
Or land, or life, if freedom fail?

—*Ralph Waldo Emerson in the February Atlantic.*

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

CUI BONO?

Had Dante in the lonely bitterness
Of exile asked the question, where would be
Those wondrous visions, his rich legacy
To all the centuries since? Had the access
Of Michel's scorn been potent to repress
As useless the sublime creations he
Cared not that men should praise, what majesty
Out of art's realm were missed! Had soft Idlesse
To the world-poet whispered: "Wherefore sing?
Thy Warwick hardly heeds thee!" how bereft
Were human thought to-day! Had failure cost
Blind Milton's careworn heart a keener sting,
And he had said: "Not any good is left!"
What light of Paradise our souls had lost!

From all parts of the land comes up the cry "deliver us from the tramps."

Democratic economy consists in saving at the spile and stealing at the bung.

Some hair-brained medical writer asserts that rabbit meat makes good brain food.

Chicago has this season packed 1,229,190 hogs, against 1,333,382 for the same period last season.

A New Jersey man is writing up a genealogical history of the Van Winkle family. Let her Rip.

Of 135,065 volumes called for last year in the Astor Library, only 5,028 were novels. That's creditable.

February is here. Now let mild-eyed April come as swift as meditation or the thoughts of love.

Women have equal rights in Edinburgh. They have just opened an asylum for dipsomaniac females there.

JOHN Trotter, of Michigan, has been trotted to the State prison for sending a challenge to fight a duel.

Mr. Great-singer did not say neigh to his appointment as freight agent at Horseheads, New York, last week.

Stubbing the Pope's toe. Simultaneous with the repeal of the Geghan law in Ohio, is that of the Gray Nuns act in New York.

There is only one instance in Scripture in which the salary of a priest is fixed. It may be found in Judges, sixteenth chapter.

Important copper discoveries have lately been made in Alabama. The *State Journal* also notes the discovery of gold deposits.

The Chicago *Journal* asks, "Why do all the Chicago revivalists leave home to save other cities?" Possibly they consider it past saving.

Wet. Ordinarily there are twenty-five hundred miles of navigable water in Kentucky. The number is now put at twenty-five thousand.

The Georgia Legislature intends abolishing the State Geological Bureau, the State Department of Agriculture and the State Board of Health.

A California paper, in considering "the school question," advises the abolition of all colleges, on the ground that "we have oarsmen enough!"

Ex-Governor Dix has just repurchased a carriage owned by him when he lived in Cooperstown, N. Y., in 1830. It has been retired for many years.

There is complaint among farmers all over the country about mouldy corn. More corn has been ruined by mould than in almost any year remembered.

The aggregate capital invested in building enterprises in Chicago last year was nearly 70 per cent. greater than in 1874. The buildings were all of a useful and permanent character, stone or brick.

Two sporting men have hired Jimmy Blanchard alias Charley Ross, the young liar who recently pulled the wool over the eyes of the St. Albans, Vermont, people, and will exhibit him through the country.

"Poor Poll!" A parrot belonging to a Connecticut lady perched itself on her breast when she was fatally ill, the other day, and was with difficulty driven away. Since her death it has refused to eat or to talk.

We all have our tragedies. Blobbs' little boy was the other day playing with a geographical globe, when he suddenly cried out with pain. When questioned as to the cause, he replied, "The world has pinched me!"

The Colorado constitution makers have sensibly decided to allow women to vote on all matters pertaining to the public schools, and to be eligible to any office which may be created by the school laws of the future State.

The Granger principle is being adopted to a considerable extent among the wealthy class of New York, who form associations large enough to make their combined trade of some value, and then bestow it on those who offer the best terms.

A summer school of physical culture is to be located upon North Mountain, in this State, mingling instruction in the physical geography, geology, botany, zoology, and meteorology of the region, and the use of scientific instruments, with instructions in field and forest life.

The old South Church, of Boston, has chiseled over its porch these words: "Behold! I have set before you an open door." Lately, however, the building has been used as a postoffice, and on the door, just below the inscription, are the gruff words, "No admittance." The satire of this is deeper than one might think.

PERSONAL.

Edmond About has decided to visit us next summer for the purpose of furnishing French people with French views of our institutions.

Colonel Valentine Baker's wife has not got a divorce as was stated, but on the contrary visits him daily in prison, and at the expiration of his term, will come with him to this country.

New York liquor seller, who has one of the most popular bars in that city, recently subscribed and paid $1,000 to the fund for the Moody meetings. When asked why he paid his money to a cause that was in direct conflict with his business, he answered that he had real estate, the income from which was greater than the profits from his bar, and that the demoralization of the city, the vice and crime that made New York an undesirable place to live in, was hurting his largest interests. "If them howlers kin stop that kind of a thing," said he, "they are doing me the best turn they kin." Not a very Christian reason, but an exceedingly practical one.

A Washington gentleman argued the other day to a lady that love proceeded from the stomach. He said what we call first love was only a sensation that was aroused by his meeting the lady at a time when the stomach was in a condition propitious to such a sentiment. The lady remembered this conversation, when this same gentleman afterward made quite a sentimental confession to her of his admiration, and not understanding her silence, asked, "What do you think of that?" "Oh," said she, "I think it is an attack of stomach ache." This retort so injured his digestion that he has had dyspepsia ever since.

Mrs. Williamson, of Beach Meadows, about eleven miles from Shelburne, Me., who, a bright, lady-like and rather *petit* woman, has just become a grandmother. About two years ago she conceived the idea that it would be a profitable business to capture young moose and rear them until they became of a saleable age. In May, 1875, with her dog Watch, she made her first hunt for them, and after several days' hunt, in which she was out from early morning until night, she came home with two. In 1874 she captured three, and last year five. She has sold them all at the age of five months. They have been sent to the Zoological Gardens in Halifax, to Victor Emanual, King of Italy, and others.

The Grangers of this State propose to establish a "farmers' encampment" in the neighborhood of Philadelphia during the Centennial season, and they are urging the Legislature to let them have from the Treasury $50,000 for the purpose of paying expenses. There is a serious probability that they will get the money, although it is quite impossible for us to perceive upon what ground such a request can be granted. It would be quite as proper for the State to contribute to the cost of the Masonic demonstration that will be made here next summer, and if the Government may fairly pay for the camp-meeting of the Grangers, it may as reasonably defray the expenses of the next picnic given in the Park by a colored Sunday school. The scheme is feasible enough, and if it succeeds, the fact may be attributed to the timidity of the country members of the Assembly, who are afraid to deny the request of the farmers for the encampment of the Grangers. It is to be observed that one of the foremost of the Grangers is Victor E. Piollet, that fine old agriculturist who last fall went booming through the land protesting against extravagance and robbery of the people, and insisting that when he got control of the Treasury all this sinful waste of the public money would be stopped.—*Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.*

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

The Social Season—Balls and Ball Toilettes—A New Grecian Bend—Walking Costumes, Etc.

From our Own Correspondent.

NEW YORK, January 31, 1876.

February is the month for balls and entertainments of all sorts. Into its four weeks and the two preceding, are crowded as much of gayety, dressing and fashionable dissipation as can very well be contained in that space of time, and the beginning of Lent finds society women as thoroughly worn out and exhausted by the the mere labor of seeing people changing their dresses with the assistance of a maid, going from place to place, staying up at night and worrying over their anxieties in the morning, as if they were washerwomen, and had to go out daily and earn their own and their children's bread and butter, or bread without butter. For it is not all plain sailing. They have to put their hands in their pocket every moment, and do not always find the purse of Fortunatus there. They cannot change their style of living, nor perhaps does it seem really necessary that they should do so, yet the effects of the "rich man's panic" bears heavily upon them, the demands are greater than ever, the income much smaller, and the bills therefore very grudgingly paid by the head of the house. Hundreds apparently of rich women in New York, who ride in their carriages and appear in their boxes at ball and opera, have not a dollar of money in the world to expend as they please. Still if the carriage is there, and the maid is there to dress their hair, and arrange their drapery properly, and if credit is good at the large millinery and dry goods houses, there is not so much difficulty. The real trials come to those who are obliged to preserve an appearance of wealth on means which are daily growing smaller and more precarious. Appearances must be maintained, invitations accepted, and no money for gloves or carriage hire, or new shoes, no possibility of new dresses, or even of freshening up the old ones with pleatings, a little ribbon and flowers. Obliged to forego the pleasure of wearing even the pretty evening dress, which was got late last winter, and stick to the horrid old black silk, or, worse still, a venerable velvet, because pretty light evening dresses require pretty white shoes, and a general care and delicacy in the details of the toilette which, in the absence of funds, it is impossible to bestow upon them. Millions of dollars and thousands of institutions are devoted to ameliorating the condition of the very poor, without much apparent result, for the poor will always be poor, but I think that even an Astor, or a Rothschild, or a Lady Burdett Coutts, I should look for the "respectable" poor, and at unexpected times drop in upon them with the help which would lift them out of their dark places.

BALLS AND BALL TOILETTES.

A ball is really (in a large city) a very important matter to all concerned, especially the great charity balls, which are the only public ones it is considered proper to attend. The cost of the great "charity" ball (given for the benefit of the Nursery and Child's Hospital) to some persons would support a poor family for a year.

In the first place, a hundred dollars is paid for a box, then new toilettes are ordered from Worth's, and hot house flowers for every member of the party, yet the items so important to less wealthy people, in such a case as this are all left out, that is to say, the carriage, the hair-dressing and other minor matters which seem so insignificant, but which in the aggregate, and especially, if often repeated, cost no trifling sum. It is a shame, that to a young gentleman, who, upon a salary of fifteen hundred dollars per year, lives (in an attic, it is true) in a fashionable boarding-house, on a fashionable avenue, keeps himself in irreproachable collars and neckties, boots and gloves, and has to wear his dress suit nearly every evening. The agonies that those poor fellows suffer in tongue can tell, and it is safe to say that at least half the usual calling upon young ladies has been given up during the present winter in consequence of pecuniary inability to meet the requirements of escort to ball or party. If girls were willing to accept the situation they would have much better times; but no, they must all be treated alike, one must have everything that another has—the carriage, the flowers, the supper, involving the same expenditure of nearly a week's salary, and so, though many are willing to be called, but few are chosen.

BALL TOILETTES.

The senseless fashion and habits of the majority of American people are nowhere more plainly illustrated than in a ball room. The girls are all dressed like married women. There is none of that distinctiveness which characterizes the costumes of the better classes in France, or that fine and cultivated taste which renders simplicity in a young girl obligatory. Their trains are as long; they wear as rich fabrics and as costly jewels as their mammas, and they require the same proper arrangement of their drapery, flinges as practical as those which place in artistic position the folds of a princess. Combination of heavy silk, with satin, decorations of point-lace and diamonds are not uncommon in the attire of quite young girls, and of course under these circumstances a thousand other extravagancies. If young, unmarried women wore shorter, simpler dresses, if they were less exigent in the matter of carriages and other costly accessories; if, in short, with the passion of which they make a pretence for the old styles, they would for a time, at least, take up the old habits, there would be first more opportunities for enjoyment greatly increased, as well as their chances in the matrimonial market.

COMBINATION EVENING DRESSES.

A very serious mistake is often made by persons in combining several shades of one color in evening dresses, especially ball dresses. While very beautiful, if well designed and executed for day wear, they are rarely effective by gas light. The reason is that the different shades do not light up equally well, and the result is either a preponderance of one, or the death of the whole. This is particularly the case with blues and greys, the colors generally selected for combinations. The result has been so marked this season that a ball room is enough to send a shiver through an imaginative person. Instead of an assemblage of gay contrasts and striking colors, looking like a parterre of flowers, the general effect of the different shades of grey, the watery greens and pale blues has been ghastly; if not ghastly, anything indeed but enlivening. Most of the toilettes seems to have been constructed with a view to economy for possible visiting, or next summer's wear. One can count on one's fingers in any assemblage the dresses that have been made for and are strictly appropriate to the occasion. The all white, or cream white are nearly always the prettiest if they are properly relieved with bright vegetable flowers, or the combination of black and white is also effective, or black and pink—a good contrast being much better under the glare of the gas light than a mere combination of shades.

Decided single colors, or color upon color, as for example, ruby gauze upon ruby silk, always make a definite impression, but it affords no special opportunity for artistic design. It is, however, always safe, and therefore in the construction of ball dresses it may be considered a general rule, either to select a single color, or combine two, as for instance, fawn and pink, dove color and blue, salmon and maroon, cream and brown, black and white, or white with black and natural flowers. Black looks well with almost any color except brown, but English pink specially, and pale, not too pale blue.

The most charming toilettes for girls are white upon white, or all white with natural flowers, or color upon color, as light pink, blue or green, or green with white flowers, or a mixture of white an red incarnations, or roses Evening dresses for young girls should be made of light grace silk, if silk at all, rather than heavy failles, and corded fabrics, and mounted with gauze, puffed upon the front, and draped at the back, the silk forming lengthwise *pans's* between. The silk and gauze should be arranged alternately as flounces.

HIGH AND LOW.

Young ladies have revived a fashion of twenty-five years ago, in the high necks and short sleeves which are almost universally adopted. It is a pretty and becoming fashion for those who have pretty, well rounded arms, and looks modest, as well as girlish, but it is absurd for women of middle age, and no woman married, or past thirty, should affect it.

American women at the North, young or old, never have taken kindly to low-necked dresses, the climate is against them, the draughty architecture of our public buildings is against them, and the traditions of a more or less puritan ancestry are dead against them. Our girls, until after they have been abroad, always look more or less scared in a low-necked dress and our women do not like exhibitions of that sort, or they have not much to exhibit, or they wear flannels like men, and dare not omit them. Whatever the reason, high-necked dresses, that is to say, high-cut square, or V shaped, are always in the majority at balls and parties in New York City, so much so, that a woman with a low dress, and especially if it is a very low one, is a mark for observation, is stared at, and looks isolated from the rest of the crowd. Even ladies who have become accustomed to them abroad yield to the insensible pressure and cover their shoulders with a *fichu* or a lace cape. All bodices are cut square or Spanish shaped, usually untrimmed except with a thick piping. Flowers are placed here and there upon evening dresses at the left of the neck, or at the right of the bodice, or the line with the waist and at the sides, or back of the skirt in perpendicular lines, but without stiffness. A curious effect was produced by the dress of a lady at a recent ball, who had evidently "followed copy" too strictly. Her dress was of a tulle puffed upon a gored foundation, and might have been pretty, but was not, because it was too straight and stiff. Then a wealth of morning glories, or convolvuli, to give them there proper name, were strung straight up and down, all around, as if upon a number of strings, against a fence in the country, and the whole effect was so absurd as to make her a subject for jokes wherever she appeared.

THE LONG TOURNURES.

The long tournures which strike out like a shaft from the waist down, and only extend from three to five inches across the back, must have a short life, for they are the most dreadful instruments of petty torture that can be conceived. To keep them measurably in place, strings have to be attached at the sides, and tied round the body and limbs in front. A chicken with its legs tied together will afford a faint idea of attempts at locomotion under such circumstances. Sitting down is just as impracticable, and the only thing possible under the circumstances is to execute a series of infinitisimal jerks, a cross between the Dundreary hop and skip, and the spasmodic stage movements of an unfledged tragedian.

Of course there are many degrees in size and shape, but the larger grades are simply abominable, and respectable women should not consent to wear them; perhaps they do not, but there are some women who do, and the spectacle they present is one to make other women turn away in shame and confusion. The "Grecian Bend" was a baby to it—this is a full grown monster and ought to be exterminated at once.

The tie-backs are still retained, but in a less exaggerated form. Overskirts have almost disappeared, trimmed skirts having taken their places.

WALKING COSTUMES

Are beautifully made of velvet and silk combined, or of three shades of one color in rich faille. A very handsome dress recently sent to Washington was in three shades of blue silk, the darkest navy blue. It was accompanied by a capote bonnet of navy blue velvet, trimmed with the lighter shades in silk and cream colored cashmere lace. Another dress for visiting was of invisible green silk and velvet, the latter used as sleeves, as alternate flounces as trimming for the heading of the shirred sides, and as vest pockets, and mounting for the cuirasse basque. A hat of cream-colored felt, trimmed with invisible green velvet and cream-colored feathers, accompanies this dress. Quite a change has taken place in the making and trimming of street dresses, and this will be more visible as spring approaches.

The fine knife pleatings which are so pretty, and have been so greatly in vogue, are falling into disuse, and shirred flounces, especially for cashmeres, are taking their place. Dresses are made in two parts—trimmed skirt and basque, no overskirt.

The skirt is puffed across the front, shirred at the sides, and arranged in *pouf's* at the back, which fall one below another. The flounces around the bottom consist of two, graduated in depth, and shirred near one edge, which is laid even with the edge, and forms a ruffled heading. The edges may be hemmed up or bound with silk, or if the body part is of silk, with velvet. Small capes, mantilettes and pelerines will be used to finish these costumes. The sudden decline in knife pleating is probably to be attributed to the fact that it is now quickly and cheaply made by machinery, instead of, as formerly, by hand, and in consequence has become exceedingly common. It is true there is a much finer difference between pleating well made by hand and plaiting made by machine, as between India shawls, and the French imitation, still it has taken away the desirability of plaiting as a trimming for all exclusive and particularly refined women. Skirts are very narrow and the trains small. The gored lining upon which the outside is mounted consists only of front and back breadth and gores one on each side. The white cambric skirt is made to fit under this as closely as possible. Materials of all kinds were never so cheap as now. Many of them must be sold much under the cost of production.

Prints and colored cambrics have made their appearance in the style lace and embroidering patterns which obtained such a vogue last season. The grounds are black, navy bine, and olive green and brown but they are so covered that it is difficult to distinguish them.

JENNIE JUNE.

A DEMOCRATIC SHINDY.

Randall's Leadership Ended—The Slumbering Democratic Yesuvius—An Overwhelming Defeat Coming on Randall—The Lancaster Convention.

(Washington (Jan. 28) Correspondence of Philadelphia Inquirer.)

There has been a smothered but rumbling volcano in the Pennsylvania Democratic delegation here that must end in a violent eruption sooner or later. It has been carefully concealed from the public until quite recently, but little by little it has been slopping over until now the position of the Keystone delegation is well understood in all intelligent circles. The delegation in the House gave a solid vote for Mr. Randall in caucus for Speaker, although not less than six more than doubted the wisdom of his election. They, however, felt that the State should not present a divided front and wash its soiled linen before the eyes of the nation, and they sustained him with fidelity. Senator Wallace, although furnished with abundant provocation by Mr. Randall's immediate friends, yielded all personal feeling and earnestly advised unanimity in the support of Mr. Randall. But Mr. Randall was beaten without the appearance of opposition from the new State, and the Lancaster *Intelligencer*, regarded here as Mr. Randall's personal organ, impugned the fidelity of a member of the delegation, and made repeated and violent assaults on Senator Wallace. The fire coming from sources which it was believed Mr. Randall either inspired or certainly could control, did much to inflame the smouldering bitterness of former estrangements, and there has not been a day since the nomination of Kerr that the breach has not widened between the members of the delegation and the factious feeling been intensified.

The inside history of the Speaker's contest has yet to be written. Randall was defeated by a caucus that wanted to give the honor to Pennsylvania, and he was beaten after he had the glittering prize in his own hands. Before the last election in Pennsylvania he would have been nominated beyond a doubt, and had Congress organized on the 4th of March last, as did the previous Congress, he would have been chosen without a contest. Nor was it Erie that overthrew him. It was a wound, but not a fatal one. It was his double-dealing with friends, and the general distrust brought upon himself by his surroundings and unfortunate actions that made his election impossible. He had the delegation solid, and could have had it devoted to him, but alienated part of it by folly. He had Senator Wallace enlisted in behalf of unity and a Randall triumph; but while he had the support of all he allowed them to be enfiladed on both flanks and hot shot to be poured into them from the rear, until forbearance ceased to be a virtue. And now bravely the Pennsylvania delegation stood to Randall the Democracy of the State can hardly appreciate. It required courage to do it. His surrounding smirched him with dishonor and were a standing menace to the party that, if Randall succeeded, it would be but a victory of Grant, Robeson, Boss Shepherd, Billy McMullen and John Morrissey. Blaine was openly, anxiously for him. Every Republican newspaper in the city espoused his cause and did valiant battle for him from day to day in their editorial columns. Hurley, McMullen, Morrissey and Fletcher were his hottle-holders, and seemed to have charge of his contest, and Dallas Sanders, John R. Reed, General Spear and Sam Josephs flitted about as skirmishers. Morrissey opened the gambling pools, arranged the bars, and had them telegraphed throughout the country to inspire the movement, and promiscuous hilarity made tuneless music at his headquarters. Promises of places under this or that department in Washington, in the Navy Yard and Postoffice building and Arsenal in Philadelphia, were given with profusion, and it was demonstrated that the promises were not made without warrant. A candidate thus surrounded was defeated simply because his election was an impossibility, and Kerr triumphed by standing and waiting for the ripe fruit of Democratic judgment to drop into his hands. His friends were cool, fearless, honest, and offended no Democratic purpose to make a Democratic House the forerunner of practical reform.

The inevitable defeat came, and since then the elements of discord have not been quieted, but rather fanned into flame. To-day there is more opposition to Mr. Randall in the delegation than he can afford to have if he hopes to be in any sense a leader. Indeed, excepting Mr. Clymer and Mr. Hopkins, all are either chilled in their friendship or outspoken in their condemnation. The distribution of the patronage to the delegation was committed to Mr. Randall and Mr. Clymer, and their use of the power is bitterly complained of. Randall got the best position for Al. Fletcher, and Hurley came in under Fletcher, while the main portion of the delegation received little or nothing. But such disappointments perish in a little time, and if there were no other grounds for hostility to Mr. Randall they would not be crystalized into a positive, aggressive element as they are to-day. His assumed leadership on the Amnesty bill was the feather that broke the camel's back and practically ended his leadership. He is blamed for precipitating the issue inopportunely, and then managing it so badly as to make it a signal disaster to the party and to the countrymen. These gentlemen, coming from what is now an overwhelming organization in the delegation, would be of little moment to the public but for the fact that the defeat of Randall would be fatal to Pennsylvania. Randall is struggling, by the lavish use of both Democratic and Grant power, to control the Lancaster convention, and more than one Democratic member of Congress has defected Randall's direct intervention in his district to make Randall a delegate at large to the National Convention. Calm as the surface looks the war is going on now, and if Randall can survive the hostility of his delegation and the favor of his McMullen friends in Philadelphia he must prove himself a man of extraordinary power. This war must come to the surface now, and the readers of the *Times* may as well be ready to see and enjoy the show.

Jeff. Davis has been in town for a few days past looking after the Amnesty bill. It is said that he stole quietly into the Senate gallery and examined the Senators' seats below, and after considerable difficulty selected the one he thought he would like best when he comes as a member from Mississippi.—*National Republican.*

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

SHEFFIELD ALARMED AT THE DECLINE OF AMERICAN TRADE.

SHEFFIELD, January 27.—At the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of Sheffield yesterday, the President referred to the startling decline of the American trade, and said that neither Sheffield nor Birmingham would ever again have such an American trade as they had formerly. American and German manufacturers were pushing our goods into a corner, and introducing machinery for the production of articles of equal quality to those made by hand here, had become successful competitors.

SUITS AGAINST EMMA MINING COMPANY.

LONDON, January 27.—The *Daily News* is informed that writs were, yesterday, served on General Schenck, the American Minister; Albert Grant, the noted financier, and others now, or formerly, connected with the Emma Mining Company.

CHINA ITCHING FOR A FIGHT WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

LONDON, January 27.—Private letters from naval officers on the China station represent that, though the Chinese difficulty has blown over, the general belief among the European residents is that the Celestial are bent on fighting sooner or later. The Admiral has sent a man-of-war to each treaty post to protect the British interests in case of emergency.

COMMISSIONER AND EGYPTIAN FINANCES.

LONDON, January 29.—The Eastern Telegraph Company publishes an official telegram from Barrot Bey, of the Khedive's household, dated at the palace, Cairo, denying the rumors prevalent in London in regard to Egyptian finances, and guaranteeing the following intelligence as from a sure source. Mr. Cave, the British Commissioner, having obtained all the information required, contemplates returning to England shortly, as the Government wishes to confer with him. Mr. Cave has made no unfavorable report on Egyptian finances.

LONDON, January 29.—The *Daily News* states that on Mr. Cave's return, in accordance with the request of the Khedive, to send out two financiers, who will hold office under the Khedive. Barrot Bey, mentioned in the previous dispatches, is a private secretary of the Khedive.

DEATH OF THE HUNGARIAN STATESMAN FERENEZ DEAK.

LONDON, January 29.—A special from Buda-Pesth to the *Times* announces the death of M. Deak. During yesterday's sitting of the Hungarian Diet, news was received that M. Deak was d